

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DIVISION OF ARCHEOLOGY  
FILE REPORT, NUMBER 187

INTENSIVE ARCHEOLOGICAL TESTING  
OF THE OXON HILL MANOR SITE

by  
SILAS D. MURRY

Report submitted to the Maryland State Highway Administration  
Project No. PS75-255-372



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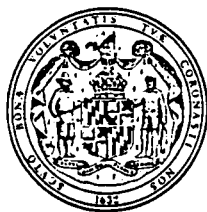
1984

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## ABSTRACT

Intensive, controlled testing at a colonial plantation in Prince Georges County, Maryland resulted in the discovery of significant subsurface features and artifact deposits dating from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Two structural loci, a filled well, multiple post holes and planting features, an artificial terrace and a large area of trash deposition were identified and delineated. The house was considered in its time one of the finest structures in colonial Maryland. Unusual both for its size and quality of style, the site is significant on both architectural and archeological grounds and is of local and regional significance due to its association with the Addison family. The site has excellent integrity as only limited impacts have occurred since site abandonment. Oxon Hill Manor has the potential to provide unique insights into 18<sup>th</sup>-century landscape design and the social patterns and values of the slave-holding oligarchy of colonial Maryland. Given its good integrity, research potential, and association with the colonial elite, the site is clearly eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Avoidance of this culturally sensitive and important area is recommended as the best course of action. If avoidance is impractical, extensive excavations need to be undertaken to mitigate impact.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archeological investigations at the Oxon Hill Manor site were financed by the Maryland State Highway Administration. Personnel there greatly aided the investigations by providing current maps and support assistance. Ms. Rita Suffness and Mr. Charles Harrison were particularly helpful in this regard.

Mr. James Burch and Ms. Catherine McGarvey of Bay of the Americas assisted by granting permission to undertake the investigation. Dr. Richard J. Dent of the University of Maryland graciously shared his research notes on the site. Dr. Garry W. Stone of the St. Mary's City Commission and Dr. Cary Carson of Colonial Williamsburg provided insightful comments on both the history and architecture of the site. Dr. Henry Miller of the St. Mary's City Commission assisted in artifact identification.

Katherine Dinnel, Donald Creveling, and Spencer Geasey under the direction of Lori Frye acted as field assistants. Ms. Frye also directed Ms. Dinnel and Mr. Creveling in the processing of the artifacts in the laboratory and prepared the graphics for the report. Sincere appreciation goes to Elizabeth Winterstein for her diligent efforts in typing the many revisions and corrections of this report. Special thanks must go to Tyler Bastian and Dennis C. Curry for their unique contributions to this study.

## INTRODUCTION

Archeological investigations at the Oxon Hill Manor site (18PR175) were limited to the proposed impact area of the Maryland Route 210/Interstate 95 interchange. The work was funded by the Maryland State Highway Administration and was undertaken in the fall of 1983 and winter of 1984 by the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey. Materials and records are the property of the State Highway Administration and are curated by the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey in Baltimore.

The Oxon Hill Manor site overlooks the Potomac River from a highland spur between Oxon Creek and Broad Creek in Prince Georges County, just south of the District of Columbia line. The site is roughly one mile from the Potomac River. It is bounded on the north by the Washington Beltway and accessible from Oxon Hill Road to the east (Figure 1). The site is within the Western Shore Division of the Coastal Plain physiographic province of Maryland. Located near the limits of brackish water in the Potomac, the site is within Maryland Archeological Research Unit 11, the Riverine Potomac drainage (Figure 1).

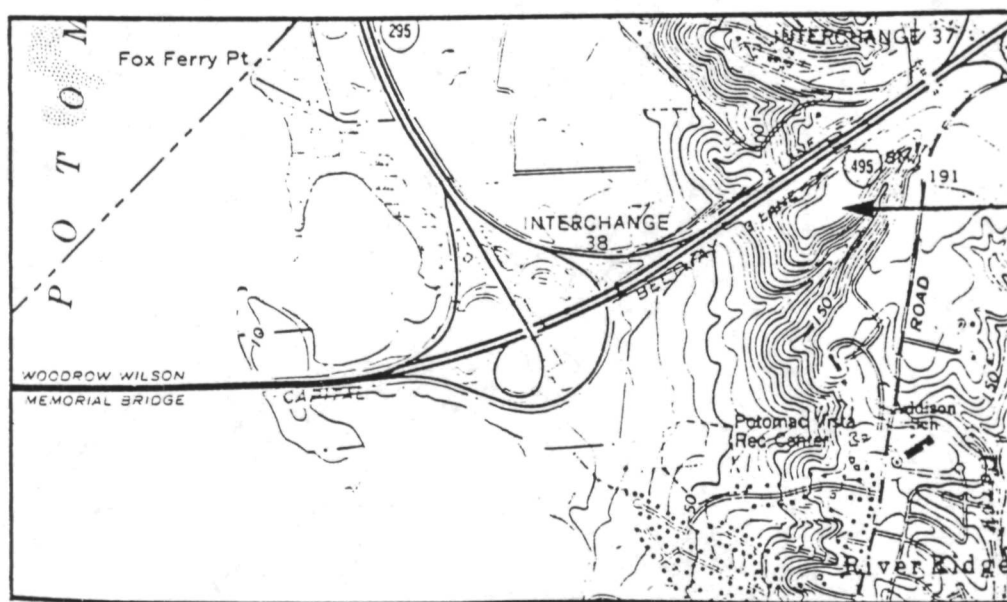
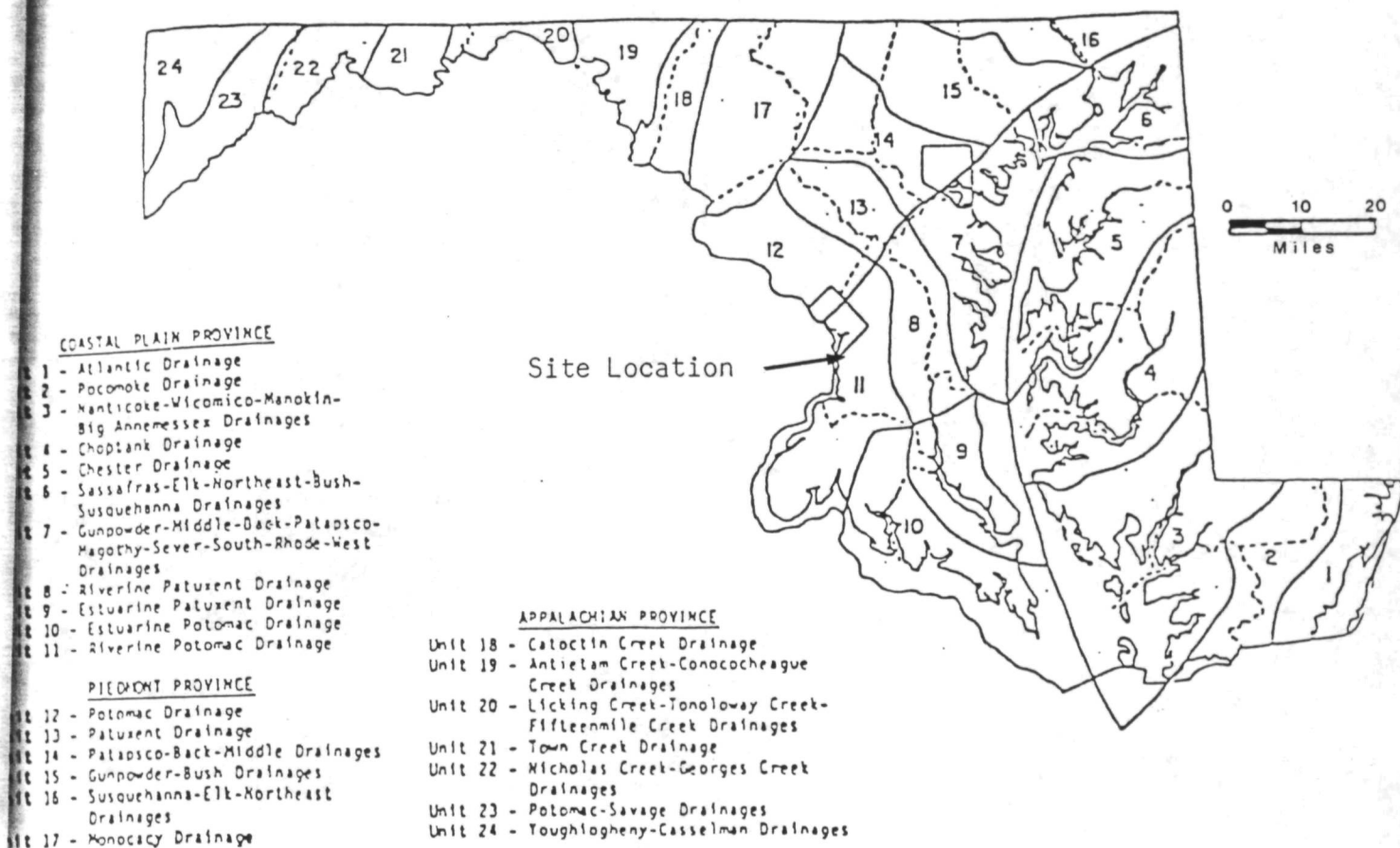
This report begins with a discussion of previous research followed by a description of the current research design and its application at Oxon Hill Manor. The historical context puts the site in perspective while the historic overview focuses on the presence of outbuildings through time. This overview is followed by a re-analysis of the previous researcher's systematic sample with an emphasis on distributional patterning. The present test squares, whose locations were determined by the distributional patterns, are then described with functional and temporal qualities of layers and features emphasized. Finally, the various sources of data are combined to suggest conclusions and forward hypotheses concerning Oxon Hill Manor. Based on these considerations, an assessment of site significance and recommendations for future work are provided.

## PREVIOUS RESEARCH

The Oxon Hill Manor site (18PR175) was first recorded by Epperson (1980) as part of a Phase I archeological reconnaissance for the planned Maryland Route 210/Interstate 95 interchange. The highway alignment proposed at that time would have disturbed the foundation of the manor house, then the only recognized remains of the site. Epperson also observed and recorded the nearby Addison Family cemetery (18PR176) and the supposed Addison mausoleum (18PR177). Epperson recommended further investigation to determine the extent of the Oxon Hill Manor site and its National Register eligibility.

Preliminary site examination was undertaken by Dr. Richard J. Dent, University of Maryland, College Park, from July through November 1981. The testing consisted primarily of shovel test pits dug at 5-meter intervals. Approximately 600 shovel test pits were laid out (Figure 2) of which about 90% were actually excavated. In addition, eighteen one-meter-square test units were excavated at selected locations to investigate potential features and artifact concentrations identified by the shovel test pits (Figure 3). The squares were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels. Thirteen squares had one level; five had two levels. Pedestrian reconnaissance, systematic probing, and clearing portions of the house foundation were also undertaken.

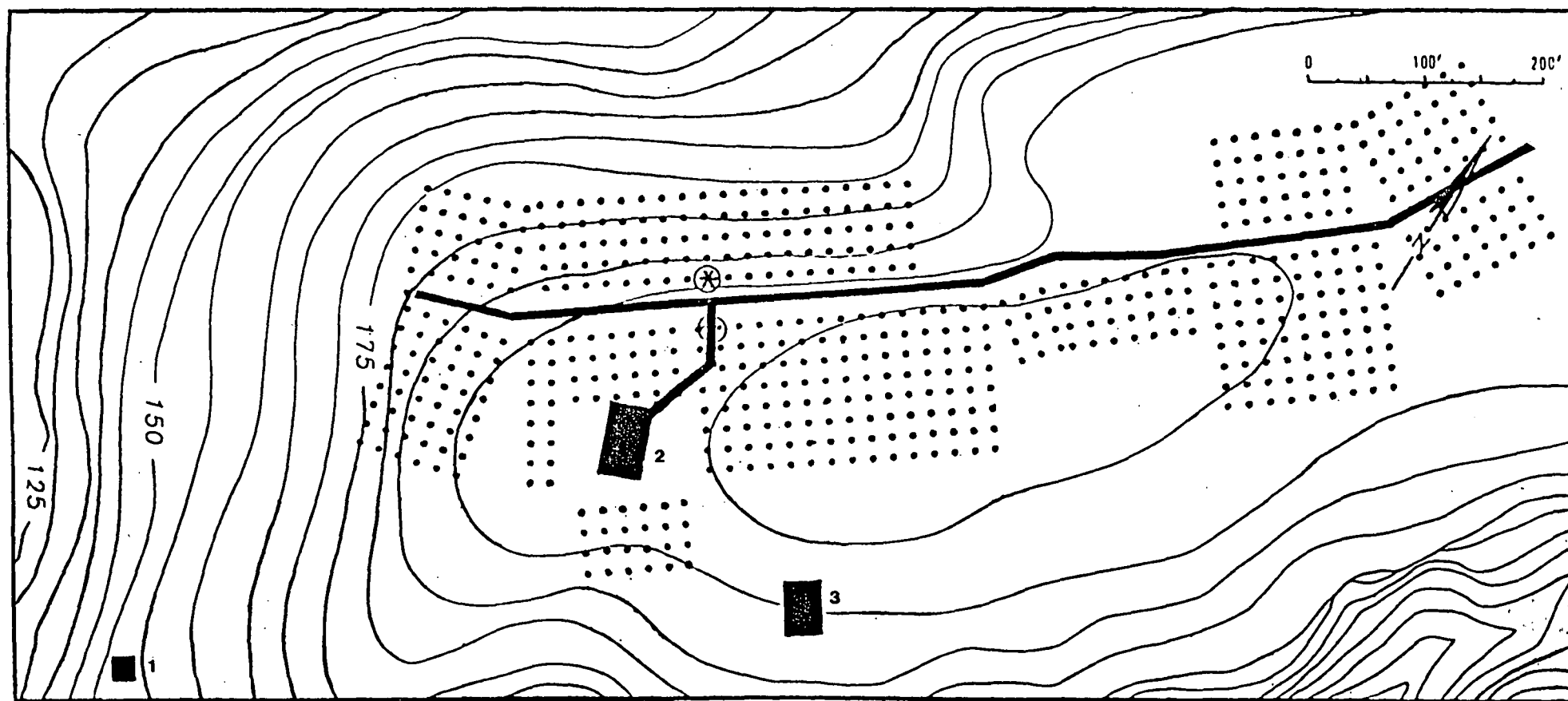
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Maryland Archeological  
Research Units  
(Council for Maryland Archeology)



Scale 1:24000

U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic map for Alexandria, Virginia

Figure 1. Location of Oxon Hill Manor



⊛ Datum

1 Mausoleum

2 Oxon Hill Manor

3 Addison Family Cemetery

Figure 2. Location of 1981 Shovel Test Pits at 18PR175  
(from Dent 1983)

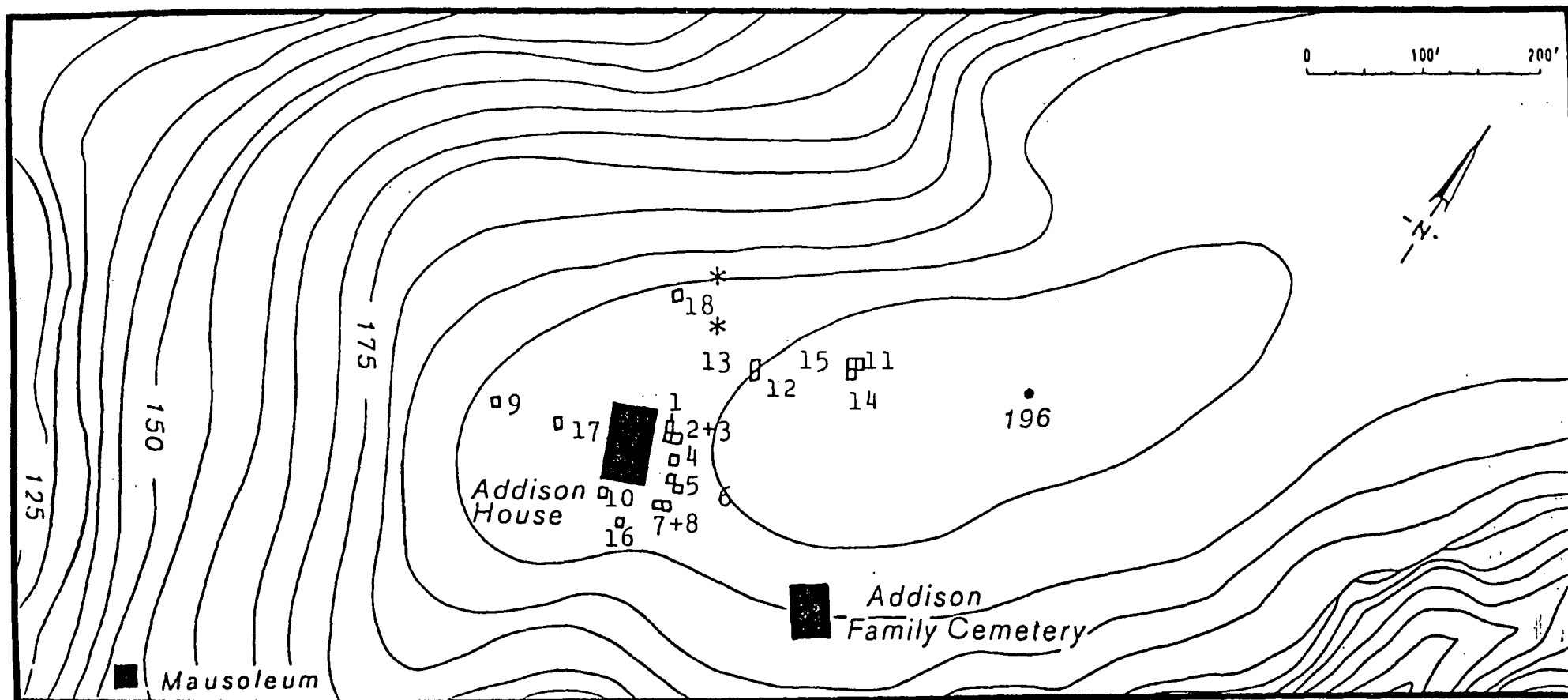


Figure 3. Location of 1981 Meter Squares at 18PR175  
(from Dent 1983)

Distributions of artifacts recovered from the shovel test pits were mapped to indicate areas of concentration. Categories of domestic artifacts used were pearlware, creamware, miscellaneous dinner ceramics, utilitarian earthenwares, and pipestems. Architectural debris classes mapped were slate, metal artifacts, brick and mortar, and window glass. Using these concentrations and the results of the one-meter-square test units, Dent identified (a) a probable trash deposition area located on the slope north of the structure, (b) a possible "overseer's house" or "slave dwelling" in the location of test units 11, 14, and 15 (Figure 3), and (c) an excavated feature interpreted as the remains of a root cellar or other storage facility (test units 12, 13, Figure 3). Test units 1 through 8 uncovered portions of a cobble drive in front of the manor on the east side (Figure 3). Test units 9, 10, 16, 17, and 18 picked up the "usual range of artifacts" but did not reveal any cultural features (Dent 1983:74).

Dent found the site to be a significant archeological resource, eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

After review of Dent's draft report, Envirodyne Engineers, in consultation with the State Highway Administration, proposed an alternate alignment in order to avoid the house foundation. This alignment, Figure 15, below, shifted the highway northward, with a retaining wall built between the roadway and the foundation. Due to the alignment shift, the location of the "overseer's house" or "slave dwelling" and the cobble driveway would no longer be subject to impact. Dent recommended additional archeological testing within the realigned right-of-way in order to "recover samples of the artifact deposits, more fully understand their depositional history, and to more fully examine the area for potential outbuilding locations" (Dent 1983:81).

#### CURRENT RESEARCH DESIGN

The current research is limited to the western half of the area investigated by Dent in 1981 (Figure 4) because that is the area for which additional work was recommended and to which the scope of the present study was limited. However, several above-grade features observed during the initial clearing in the eastern area and new historical evidence has demonstrated the need for additional work now scheduled for the summer of 1984. The eastern area was separated to facilitate investigations as several above-grade features were observed in the initial clearing in this area and could not be tested within the limited scope of the current study. The initial work plan was to investigate an area adjacent to the manor house where a retaining wall was proposed, and to further delineate trash deposits down slope from the "great house". To these ends the material recovered by Dent was re-analyzed to refine concentrations of deposition. These areas were then to be tested with controlled excavation units. The results of these excavations would be integrated with the historical research to describe the historic landscape of Oxon Hill Manor and provide the basis for both recommending site avoidance and for designing a data recovery program.

Field methods utilized in this research involved the stratigraphic excavation of one-meter-square test units whose locations were determined by delineation of distributional patterns. All excavations were undertaken in natural strata with all soil matrices sifted through  $1/4$ -inch mesh screen and



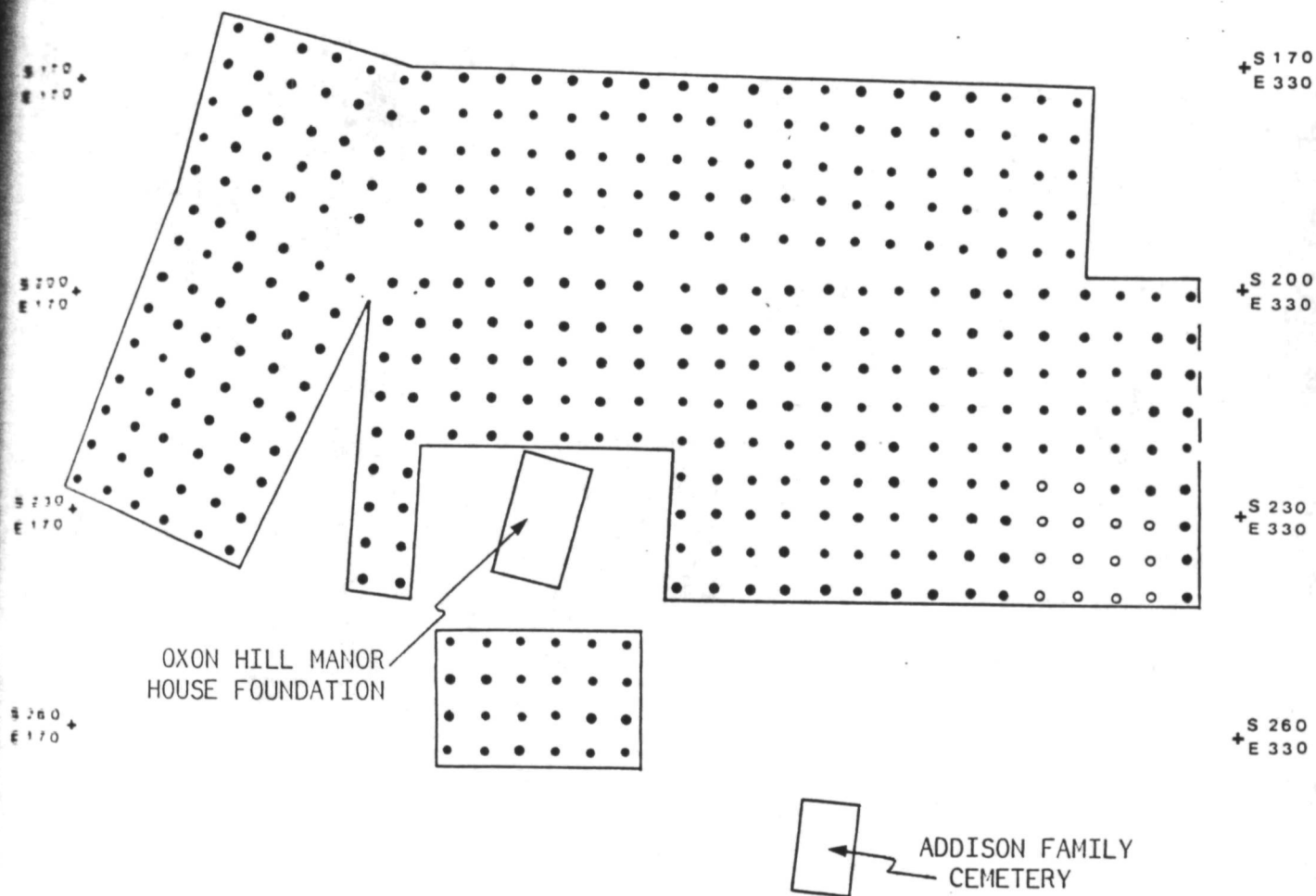


Figure 4. Location of Shovel Test Pits Used in Distributional Analysis  
(after Dent 1983)

cultural material retained by provenience. Records were kept on standardized forms and all soils were described by texture and color (Munsell). Excavations were generally continued until undisturbed strata were reached with a few exceptions noted below. Profiles of the test units and features were recorded when applicable. The results of these tests will be explicated below.

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

To understand the importance of Oxon Hill Manor and the Addison family as representatives of the slave-holding elite in 18<sup>th</sup>-century Prince Georges County, some background into the society and economy of the region in this period is needed. To this end, portions of the historical overview of M/DOT Archaeological Resource Survey Volume 2: Western Shore have been extracted and are presented below.

The period from circa 1720 to circa 1780 has often been characterized as the "golden age" of the tobacco coast. Cycles of economic boom and bust were less accentuated in this period of stability and prosperity. The production of tobacco, and the value of the crop, both showed slow but steady increases. At the time, however, labor productivity fell, and tobacco production began to lose some ground to the grain crops. Tobacco continued to be the region's most important agricultural activity, however, and, as the area remained overwhelmingly agriculturally oriented, the bulwark of the economy. While other areas of Maryland, especially the Eastern Shore, increasingly turned to wheat cultivation and diversified farming, the Western Shore remained firmly wedded to tobacco because the low maintenance costs of slave labor, the use of slaves in the production of non-tobacco revenues and the higher tobacco prices paid there all served to maintain tobacco production as a profitable pursuit (Earle and Hoffman 1976:28-39). Even with the downturn in tobacco prices that occurred in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, tobacco production prevailed.

Slavery developed as a natural concomitant to tobacco production. The labor-intensive nature of production of the crop remained and, given the unavailability of sufficient numbers of indentured servants, as was the case beginning as early as the last years of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, slavery was adopted as an alternative. By 1810, when the percentage of slaves in the state population had dropped markedly, no Western Shore county had less than a 43.8% share and Charles County, with 61.4%, had the highest percentage.

Most of the area's slaves appear to have been owned by a relatively small percentage of the total white population. An oligarchy of large land-owners appears to have developed during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, partly as a response to the necessity of producing tobacco on a large scale in order to reap sufficient profits, and dominated socially and economically as well as politically (Ridgway 1979:127-129).

(Wesler et al. 1981:87-88)

The status of the Addisons within this context should be viewed as members of the slave-holding oligarchy described above. In 1727, Thomas Addison owned 79 slaves while population statistics for Prince Georges County suggest 1,202 slaves in the county in 1712 (total population of Prince Georges County in 1712 was 4,580). In 1775 Thomas Addison (above Addison's grandson) owned 109 slaves while the total population of the county was 17,550 (figures on slave population in 1775 are not available). (Preceding extracted from Wesler et al. 1981 and Kulikoff 1976.)

From these figures it is obvious that the Addisons were quite prominent within the Prince Georges County slave-holding oligarchy. Additional insights into their social rank and position can be implied from the various political offices the Addisons occupied. Thomas Addison (1679-1727) was a Colonel of the militia and a member of the Privy Council (the upper house of the colonial Maryland assembly). His son, John Addison (1713-1764), also served as a Colonel of the militia and a Burgess representing Prince Georges County in the Maryland Assembly. Later Addisons do not appear to be as politically active as the earlier generations, focussing instead on economic or social pursuits.

The Addison family was not only politically influential, their social status was well established. Thomas Addison, son of John Addison, was married to the daughter of Walter Dulany, son of Daniel Dulany the Elder, one-time Attorney General of Maryland and Lord Baltimore's chief colonial agent. The previous Addisons had also married daughters of the colonial elite. The general practice was to marry within one's social class, thereby consolidating wealth and land.

The Addisons, as members of the highest stratum of the Prince Georges County slave-holding elite, were conspicuous consumers. Thomas Addison's "style on the road was a coach with four handsome English coach horses and liveried outriders" (McGrath 1950:338). The Addison home, Oxon Hill Manor, was described in the 18th century as "the most pleasantly situated and circumstanced, and in all respects the most desirable of any I have ever seen in any part of the world" (Bouchier 1925:51). The probate inventories of the various Addisons also point to a very opulent life at Oxon Hill. Backgammon tables, silver-handled swords, special tea furniture and tea china, numerous paintings and books, and a "chariot and harness for 6 horses" all appear in the record. These were all status, consumption items rarely found in 18th-century inventories. In a very real way, they illustrate the wealth and status of the Addison family.

In sum, the Addisons of Oxon Hill represent the highest stratum of the colonial elite in Prince Georges County, Maryland. From political offices held, to social connections with other elite families, to conspicuous consumption of wealth, the Addisons are, if not unique, then, extremely rare in the status represented.

#### OXON HILL MANOR THROUGH TIME

The manor house was reputedly built in 1710/11 by Thomas Addison (Castle 1957) on land acquired by his father, John Addison in 1687 (Mackintosh 1974:75). The earliest contemporary reference to the house, a probate inventory, suggests the manor had been standing for some time by 1727. The

18th-century history of Oxon Hill Manor is inextricably tied to that of the Addison family. A brief biographical sketch of each of the Addisons who owned Oxon Hill Manor is provided in Appendix I.

#### Cartographic Research

The manor house first appears in the cartographic record on the 1737 map of the Potomac River by Robert Brooke (Foster 1938) (Figure 5). Whereas most of the houses are indicated by a small dot, the Addison house is marked with a relatively large triangle, perhaps suggesting a grander structure than its neighbors. In 1748 George Washington's plat of subdivision for Alexandria (which he renamed Bellhaven) includes a small sketch of "Mrs. Addison's" house on the opposite shore (Figure 6). Martenet's 1861 map of Maryland indicates the location of the structure and lists "T. Berry" as the owner. Hopkins' 1878 atlas shows the house as owned by "T. Berry" and occupied by "Jas. Bowie" (Figure 7). None of these maps indicate outbuildings, but this is probably a function of their very small scale.

Following completion of the fieldwork on this project, a map showing some detail of the site in 1863 was obtained (Figure 8). In addition to the main house, two outbuildings are indicated within the current study area. Three additional structures are shown east of the current project area but within the proposed highway alignment. The structural locations were not field checked as the map was not obtained until after this report was in draft and there was a commitment for early completion.

#### Pictorial Research

Current research has discovered two exterior sketches and one interior photograph of Oxon Hill Manor. Both sketches are reproduced in Figure 9. Analysis of the fenestration suggests these views are of two different facades. As the sketch from Murray (1895) includes boats on the Potomac in the background, this view must be of the eastern facade. The illustration from Murray (1895) shows six windows on the second story while that from dePach, Hopper, and Price (1979) has seven windows, including a small, central light. Therefore, the view in dePach, Hopper, and Price (1979) must be of the western facade. A photograph of the central hall (Murray 1895) indicates a small window centered over the stairway, evidently the same window as shown on the view of the western facade (Figure 10). If this interpretation is correct, the stairway, and therefore the principal entrance, faced east, away from the river.

The eastern facade (Murray 1895) shows wings attached on both the north and south sides of the structure. However, within the text it is stated that the wings were not extant at the time of publication (1895). The western view (dePach, Hopper, and Price 1979) does not show any wings, but does indicate a small shed on the northern gable end of the house. Both views show Oxon Hill Manor as an example of fully developed Georgian architecture. Complete bilateral symmetry is maintained in both the eastern and western facades. It is somewhat unusual for such an early structure to have two formal facades. Ocean Hall (built 1703) in St. Mary's County, Maryland had only one Georgian facade with a symmetrical arrangement of windows, while the rear of the house was asymmetrical to the point of having a non-centered door (Hursey 1982:10).

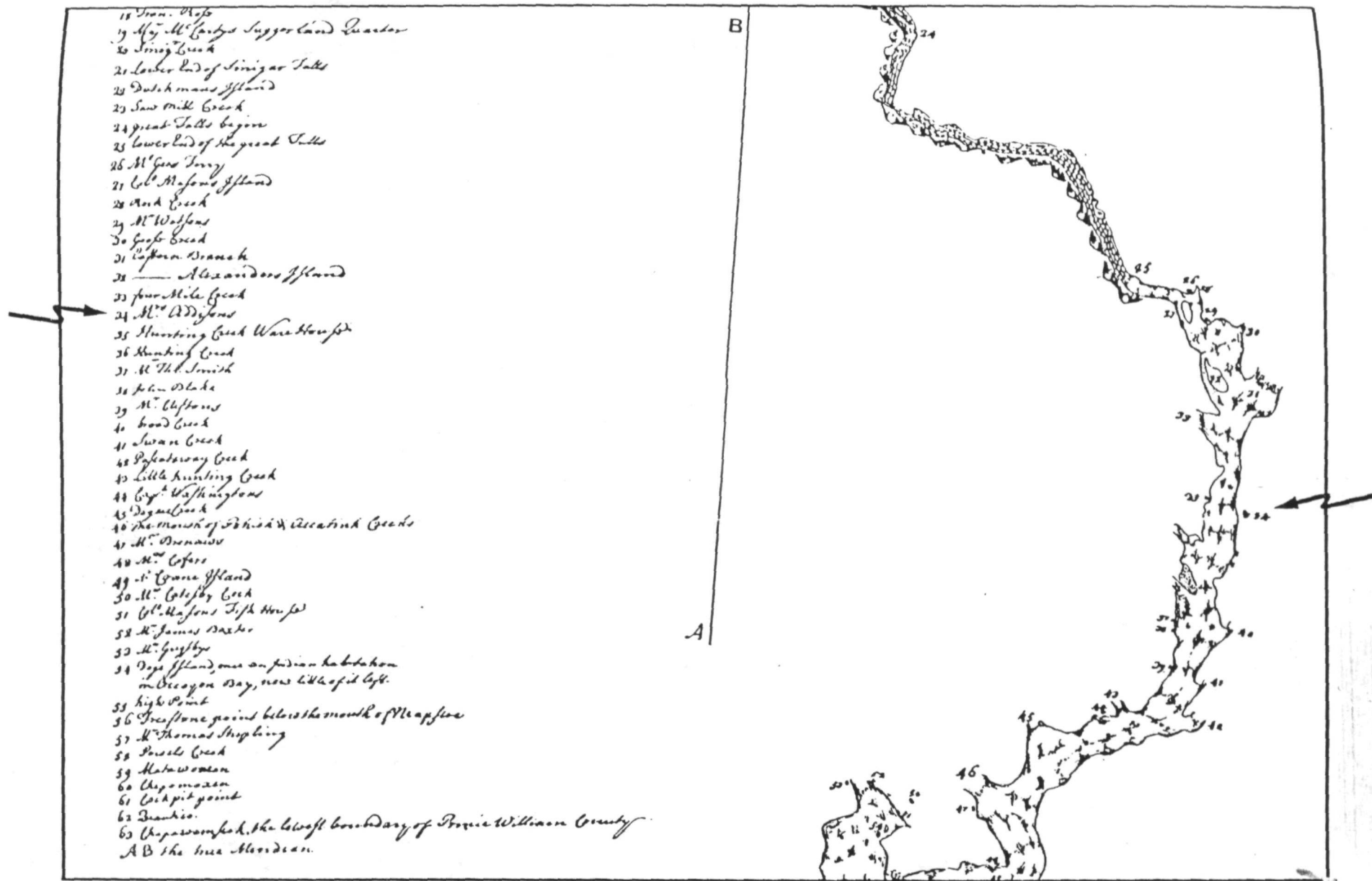


Figure 5. Part of Robert Brooke's 1737 Map of the Potomac River

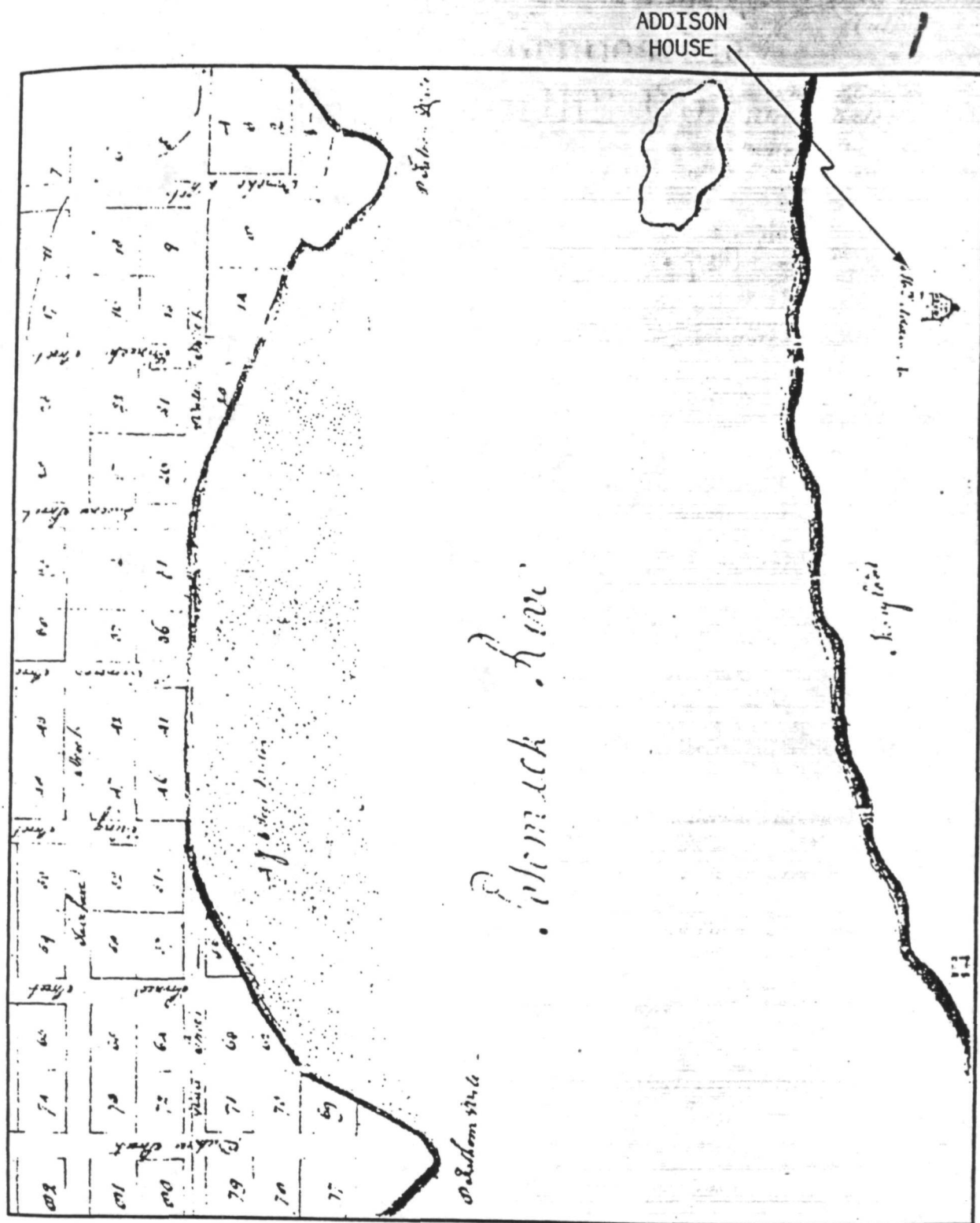


Figure 6. George Washington's 1748 Plan for Bellhaven (Alexandria)

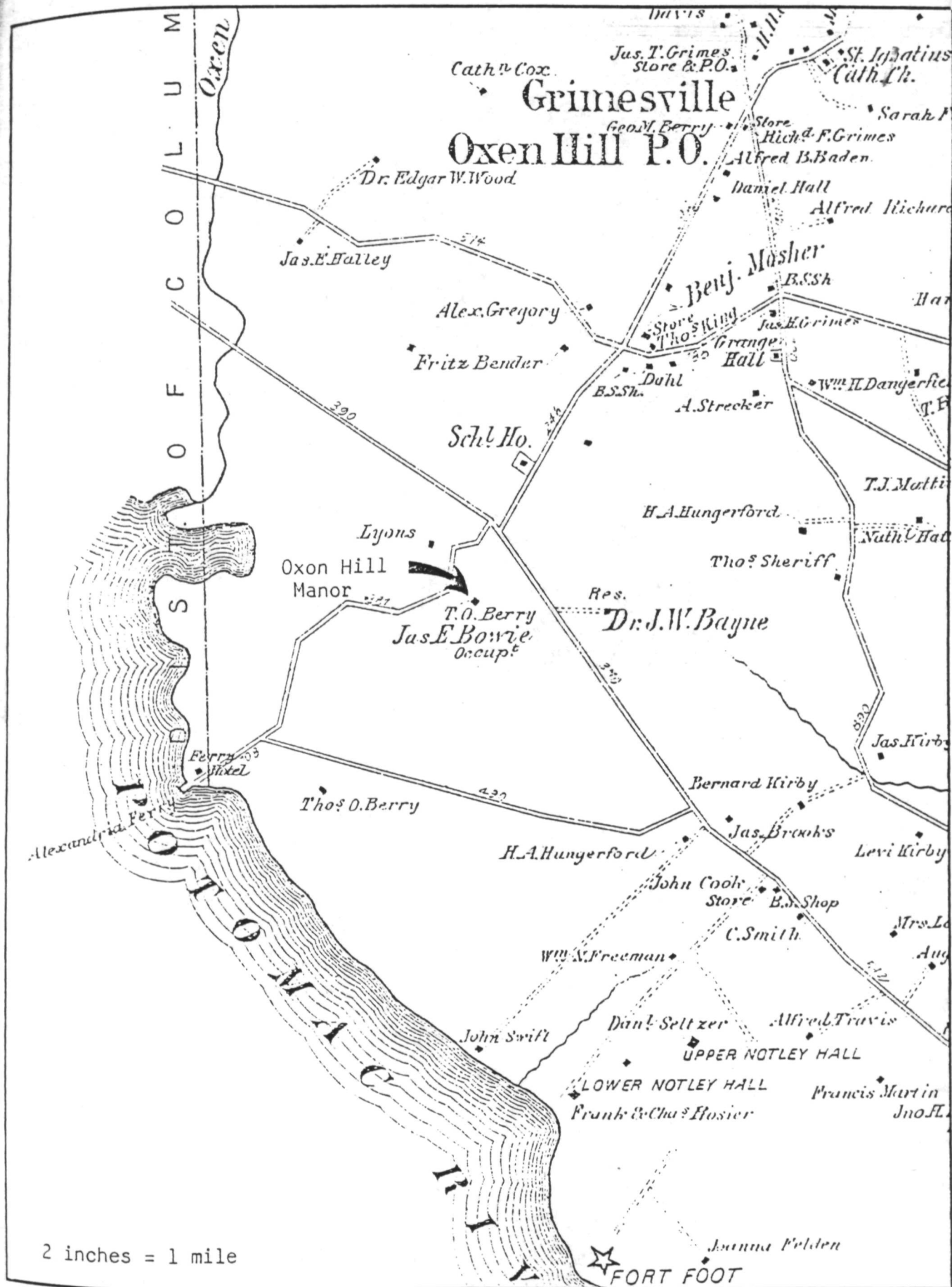
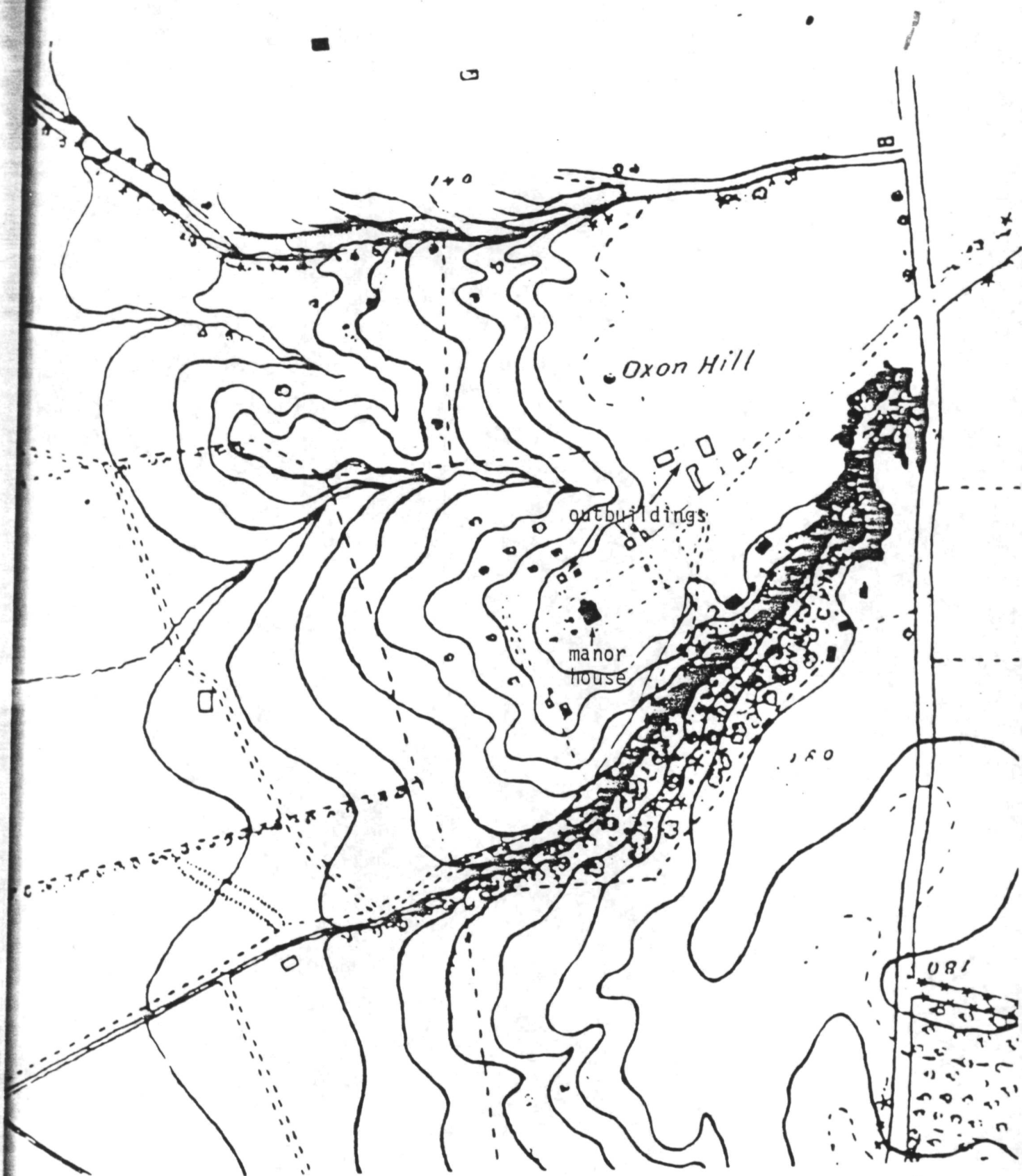


Figure 7. Site and Environs from Hopkins' 1878 Atlas of Prince George's County





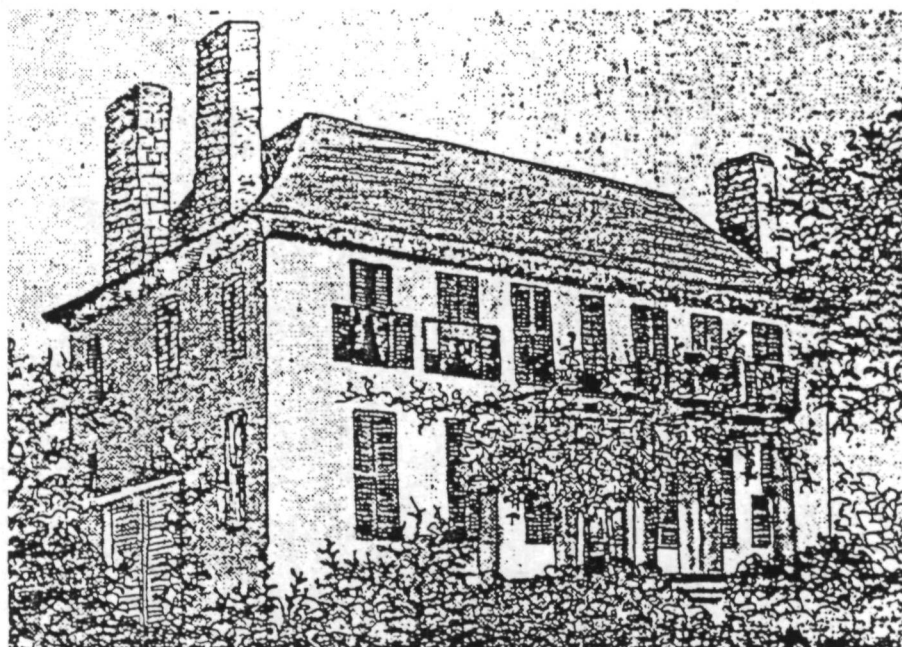
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Figure 8. Original Topographic Survey of 1863 (Sheet T-902)





Eastern Facade of Oxon Hill Manor from Murray, 1895.



Western Facade of Oxon Hill Manor from dePach Hopper, and Price, 1979.

Figure 9. Two views of Oxon Hill Manor

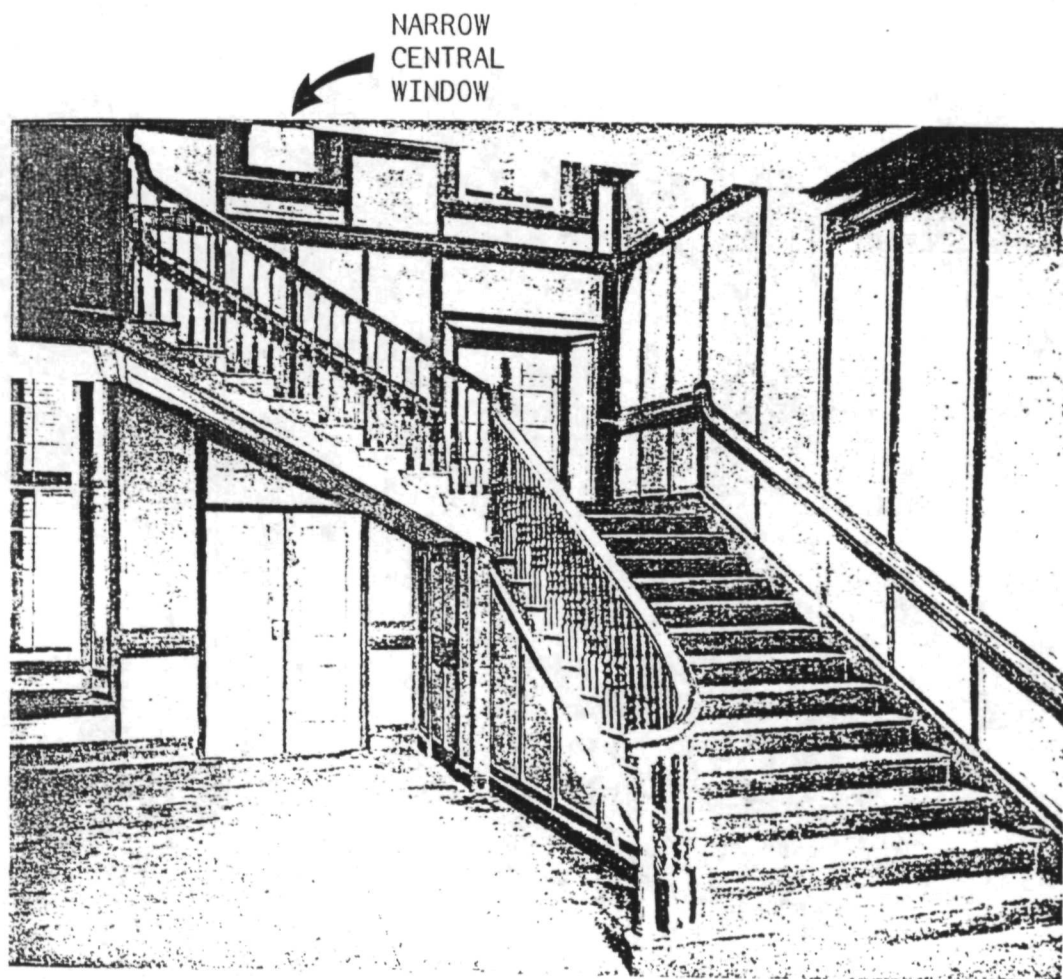


Figure 10. Central Stair Passage at Oxon Hill Manor as Illustrated by Murray, 1895

Dating of the views of Oxon Hill Manor is somewhat problematical. Murray's view is printed in 1895 but the author indicates that by that time the wings shown in the picture are gone. The picture must date before 1895, but how long before is unknown. The view from dePach, Hopper, and Price (1979) is described as an "1894 picture of Oxon Hill Manor". It is most likely that Murray's view predates dePach, Hopper, and Price's picture given the absence of wings in the latter.

### Developmental History

In order to determine the number and sequence of structures and features at Oxon Hill Manor, a variety of primary source materials was examined. These included probate inventories, the 1798 tax assessment, and 19th-century newspaper advertisements. An attempt was made to use the Orphan's Court records, but this proved futile due to the lack of indexes and the incompleteness of the records.

#### 18th Century

The first document which describes Oxon Hill Manor is the 1727 Probate Inventory of Thomas Addison. In addition to the main house, there appears to be a separate (but possibly attached) kitchen with rooms above and a shed. An additional description of two rooms "in the shade" may imply a connecting piazza with two enclosed rooms (Jones 1980:133). Six apparently independent quarters and a mill are also indicated, though these appear to be elsewhere on the Addison property.

Thomas Addison's inventory lists 28 slaves and three indentured servants in residence at the main house. This indicates that some type of housing was probably provided in or near the "great house". Thirteen horses are listed at the main house suggesting stabling facilities for at least that many animals. Thomas Addison's probate also includes references to specialized gardening equipment (lawn roller) and an indentured servant described as a gardener.

The 1765 inventory of John Addison seems to suggest an arrangement similar to that existing roughly thirty years before, though no mention of the rooms "in the shade" is included nor are any rooms described in association with the kitchen. Two additional structures are mentioned, however. These are a milk house and a meat house. At least three independent quarters are listed. A "spinning room" is listed but its location is not clear; it may have been adjacent to the main house or it may have been associated with the quarters.

John Addison's inventory enumerates 24 slaves living at the main house, suggesting housing for at least this number of individuals. Twenty horses are listed at the manor house indicating stable space for that many animals near the main house. Specialized gardening equipment is also listed in John Addison's inventory.

The 1775 inventory of Thomas Addison described the main house as before with the addition of a "back porch". As this entry follows the kitchen, the room may be a kitchen porch rather than one off the main house. An additional structure referred to as the "Overseer's House" is listed between the main

house description and the cellar entry. This most probably was an attached structure. In addition, this inventory lists two apparently independent quarters.

Thomas Addison's inventory refers to sixty slaves in residence at the main house. Twenty-two horses are listed at the main house, again suggesting some sort of stable. The inventory also lists special garden tools and a slave specified as a gardener.

The 1798 Federal Assessment and "particular list" of dwelling houses describes the main house as 66 feet by 36 feet, two-storied, of brick, with 45 windows and three outbuildings on one and a half acres. The house is valued at \$2,000 (nearly four times the value of any other dwelling in the hundred, which comprised roughly  $1/20^{\text{th}}$  of the area of Prince Georges County (Hienton 1972:51)). The three outbuildings are described as a kitchen (24 feet by 30 feet) and two stables, each 21 feet by 30 feet. These buildings are of frame construction. Centering the main house within the acre and a half lot would place roughly one quarter of the lot within the current research area. This would encompass less than one-fifth of the total research area. Numerous other structures may have been present outside the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres but within the project area. Twenty other structures are listed on Walter D. Addison's property (2,522 acres). None of these structures were valued over \$100 implying they were most likely slave quarters or tenant houses. Given the sixty slaves in residence at Oxon Hill some twenty years earlier it seems likely some of the twenty structures listed would have been quarters near the "great house".

#### 19th Century

In 1810 Walter Dulany Addison transferred 1,328 acres of Oxon Hill Manor, including the main house, to Zachariah Berry (JRM 13:623, 627, and 654). No description of the house or ancillary structures could be found from the period of Zachariah Berry's ownership. After Berry's death in 1845, the land and house were inherited by his son, Thomas.

As previously stated, after this report was in draft, a fairly detailed 1863 map of Oxon Hill was obtained (included as Figure 8). This map indicates two structures near the main house and three additional structures northeast of the manor house. No notation as to the function of these structures is included on the map, but it seems likely that they were either farm structures or tenant/slave houses.

Both Zachariah and Thomas Berry lived elsewhere on the large tracts of land they held in Prince Georges County. Apparently Oxon Hill Manor was leased during this period. We also do not currently know the names of any of these tenants with the exception of James Bowie, listed as an occupant in Hopkins' 1878 atlas of Prince Georges County.

In 1878 Thomas Berry was found mentally incompetent and his land was placed in the hands of trustees for sale to satisfy his creditors (Chancery Court Cause No. 1208, Equity). The text of an advertisement of the public auction of parts of his land (including the manor house) in 1891 is included in the Chancery Court papers:

## A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF TWELVE HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND, NEAR WASHINGTON CITY, ADJOINING THE LINE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, IN SIGHT OF THE CAPITOL

By virtue of the power vested in [torn] trustees in an Equity cause in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in Equity known as No. 1208 Equity, we will sell at public sale at the mansion house on Oxen [sic] Hill farm on the road leading from Fort Foote to Washington on [blank] day of March 1891 at the hour of One o'clock P.M. if fair if not the next fair day all that valuable Real Estate known as Oxen Hill and Oxen Hill Manor in Prince George's County decreed to be sold and not heretofore disposed of lying between the Fort Foote road and the Potomac River where it strikes the District line together with that part of the Woodland still unsold and called Oxen Hill Manor. Oxen Hill upon which the mansion house is situated contains about 725 acres. This is one of the most fertile, eligibly located and valuable tracts of land in Prince George's County.

The improvements consist of an elegant brick mansion covered with slate and panelled with cherry, with commodious barns and stables and six tenant houses, also a wharf constructed of limestone [torn] at the public ferry landing opposite Alexandria which is a part of the property. This land is well adapted to market gardening fruit culture and stock raising.

The Woodland consists of about 500 acres divided into lots averaging from 20 to 30 acres lying on the roads to the Navy Yard bridge and to Silver Hill covered with white oak chestnut and pine wood.

With the exception of the "elegant brick mansion" it is unclear which, if any, structures were located within the current research area. The "six tenant houses" and "commodious barns and stables" may have been near the main house or perhaps elsewhere on the 725 acres.

The 1891 advertisement is the most recent description of the lands and structures at Oxon Hill that has been found. The property was transferred piecemeal to various purchasers between 1879 and 1905 (JB18;359, 370, JWB20 412). By 1905 most of the land was in the hands of the Rock Creek Land Company Inc. (Book 21:359). Table 1 summarizes the data on structures at Oxon Hill.

Table 1. Summary of Structures at Oxon Hill

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Source</u>               | <u>Structures</u>   |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1727        | Probate Inventory           | kitchen with (possibly attached) shed and two rooms "in the shade", six quarters and a mill |
| 1765        | Probate Inventory           | kitchen, milk house, meat house, three quarters, and a "spinning room"                      |
| 1775        | Probate Inventory           | kitchen, overseers house, and two quarters  |
| 1798        | Direct Federal Tax          | kitchen, 3 stables, and twenty structures valued under \$100                                |
| 1863        | Original Topographic Survey | 5 structures  |
| 1891        | Chancery Court Papers       | "commodious barns and stables" and "six tenant houses"                                      |

The mansion at Oxon Hill burned in 1895. Three newspaper accounts of the fire follow.

When first discovered, a small spot in the roof only was burning, but it quickly spread, and in 15 or 20 minutes the whole eastern heavens were illuminated by the conflagration--the fire raging furiously, the flames leaping high, while a huge volume of smoke settled over the adjoining hills. Numbers of people in the city went to the streets facing the river to look at the fire, which continued to rage for several hours. The origin of the fire is unknown, from the fact that ice in the river rendered it impossible to communicate with the opposite shore. Nothing now remains of the former building but the walls and the four chimneys." (The Alexandria Gazette; quoted in John Clagett Proctor, "Early Prince Georges Church" in the Washington Sunday Star, February 29, 1948)

Another one of Maryland's historic mansions has been destroyed. The spacious dwelling house on Oxon Hill, overlooking the Potomac, opposite Alexandria, caught fire last night, and was left a wreck by flames at daybreak this morning. This mansion has long been one of the landmarks of the neighborhood of Washington, and, with Mount Vernon, Belvoir, and Carlisle House, made up the noted mansions of the neighborhood in colonial days. (Baltimore Sun, February 7, 1895)

Another one of Maryland's historic mansions has been destroyed. The spacious dwelling house on Oxon Hill, overlooking the Potomac River, in Prince George's County, opposite Alexandria, caught fire Tuesday night and was left a wreck by the flames by daybreak Wednesday morning.

The mansion has long been the landmark of the neighborhood of Washington. It was built about 1750 by Rev. Dr. Addison, an Oxford man, and with the mansions at Mt. Vernon, Belvoir and the Carlyle House, on the Virginia side of the Potomac River, made up the noted mansions of the neighborhood in colonial days. The Oxon Hill estate gave its name to Oxon River, one of the streams of Prince George's County. The mansion passed from the Addison family into the hands of the late Thomas Berry, and had lately been sold. (Prince George's County Enquirer, February 8, 1895)

#### Post-Occupation

While the main house at Oxon Hill burned in 1895, it seems likely that associated outbuildings and tenant houses elsewhere on the manor would have escaped the blaze. However, no documentation of these probable surviving structures has been found. The only post-conflagration illustrations are found in J. Harry Shannon's original glass negatives from "With the Rambler in the Odd Nooks and Crannies about the City" (Columbia Historical Society photo file, Rambler Number 0194, 1908). Figure 11 reproduces Shannon's photograph. The only above-grade remains are the stone steps and a portion of the lower walls; it appears the building's walls had collapsed by this time.

Post-occupational impacts to the site include the retrieval of quantities of brick for reuse in the late 1920's and early 1930's (Dent 1983:50). It would appear that sorting of the brick occurred on site as two large piles of brickbats are still present near the foundation (see Figure 15). Additional impacts to the site appear to include vandalism in the cemetery and mausoleum, and occasional deposition of modern trash within the area. During construction of the Washington Beltway, burning of trees cleared from the right-of-way got out of control and burned over a good portion of the site. It is not known if attempts to control the fire had any impact on the site.

#### ARTIFACT DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

Re-analysis of the artifacts recovered by Dent's systematic sampling strategy was undertaken to determine loci of activity at the Oxon Hill Manor site. Figure 12 depicts the overall distribution of 18<sup>th</sup>-century domestic material (this includes creamware, tin-glazed earthenware, Buckley earthenware, Rhenish grey stoneware, black basalt, and 18<sup>th</sup>-century bottle glass). Three concentrations beyond the main house are indicated. The distribution of 19<sup>th</sup>-century domestic material (pearlware and whiteware) is illustrated in Figure 13. Two general areas of deposition are indicated. These roughly co-occur with two of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century concentrations. Figure 14 illustrates the distribution of architectural material from both centuries. This includes only nails and window glass. (Bricks are excepted as they are nearly ubiquitous throughout the site.) These concentrations indicate three loci with some outward spread.





Figure 11. Oxon Hill Ruin ca. 1905

Photograph courtesy of Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C.



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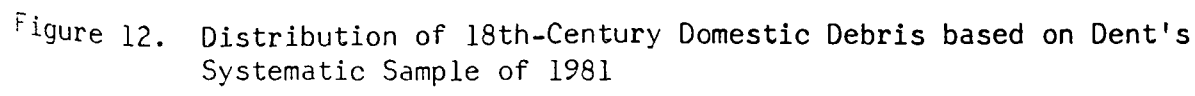


Figure 12. Distribution of 18th-Century Domestic Debris based on Dent's Systematic Sample of 1981

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Figure 14. Distribution of Architectural Debris based on Dent's Systematic Sample of 1981

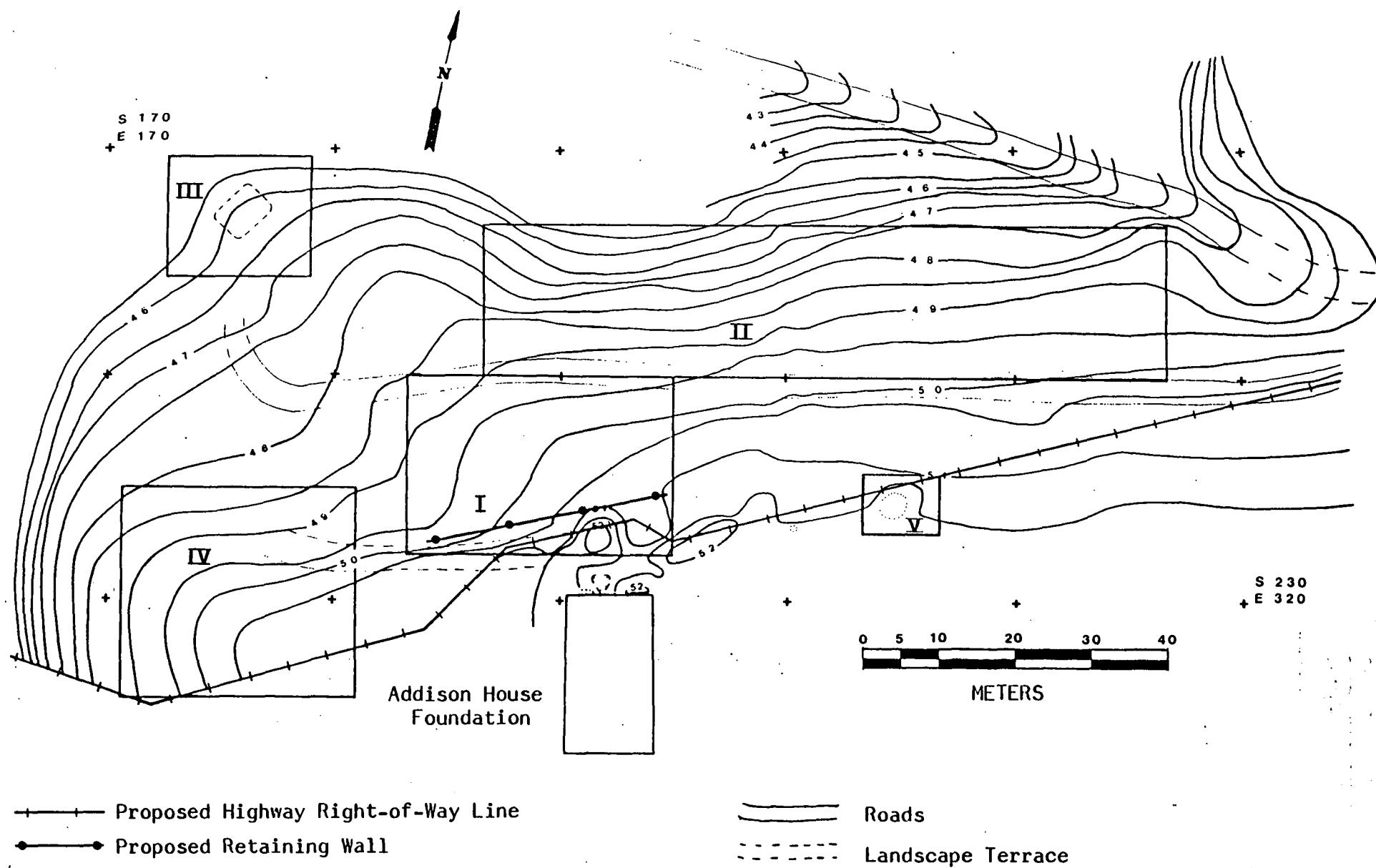


Figure 15. Location of Excavation Areas

Based on these distributions three areas were delineated for additional testing (Areas II, III, and IV on Figure 15). Additional testing was also undertaken adjacent to the "great house" at the location of a proposed retaining wall (Area I) and adjacent to the possible root cellar or ice house noted by Dent (Area V, Figure 15).

#### 1983/84 PEDESTRIAN RECONNAISSANCE

After arrival at the site, a preliminary pedestrian reconnaissance was undertaken to observe and locate above-grade cultural features. The reconnaissance was facilitated in some areas by clearing undertaken to prepare for excavations. Numerous apparent cultural features were discovered.

As described by Epperson (1980) and Dent (1983) a large, brick-lined cellar hole is a prominent feature (Figure 16a). The cellar hole is partially filled with brick rubble and apparently banked on the northern and eastern edges by considerable brick rubble. North and northeast of the foundation, two very large piles of brick rubble were observed (Figure 16b). East of the more eastern brick rubble pile a large (ca. 4 m diameter), deep (ca. 2 m) rather circular hole was located (Figure 16c). This corresponds to the possible root cellar or ice house described by Dent (1983:72). Surrounding the open hole is a large, flat mound which apparently represents the spoil from the hole excavation (Figure 16d).

North of the northern brick pile and centered over the proposed retaining wall impact line, a small depression was observed (Figure 16e). A similar depression was discovered midway between the eastern brick pile and the root cellar/ice house (Figure 16f).

West of the foundation a very regular terrace feature was observed (Figure 16g). The feature appears to be cultural in origin, perhaps a formal, landscaping terrace. On the top of the terrace ca. 15 meters from the house foundation is a very large (1.5 m diameter) pear tree.

The cobble driveway, recorded by Dent (1983:56), was traced by probing from the center of the eastern facade of the main house in two arms extending eastward. The driveway appears to be a loop, terminating near the current path to the Addison cemetery. (The driveway is outside of the impact area and is not illustrated.)

North of the current access road to the site (Figure 16h), in the extreme northwest portion of the current study area, a rectangular (ca 6.5 x 5 m) mound of earth was observed (Figure 16i). The mound occupies a position north of the current access road just before slope increases from moderate to steep.

Further north and down the slope is an entrenched road trace (Figure 16j). The trace extends from the Washington Beltway to beyond the eastern limits of the current research.

In sum, pedestrian reconnaissance indicated several above-grade cultural features within and immediately adjacent to the current research area. Two waste brick piles, two small well-like depressions, a probable landscaping

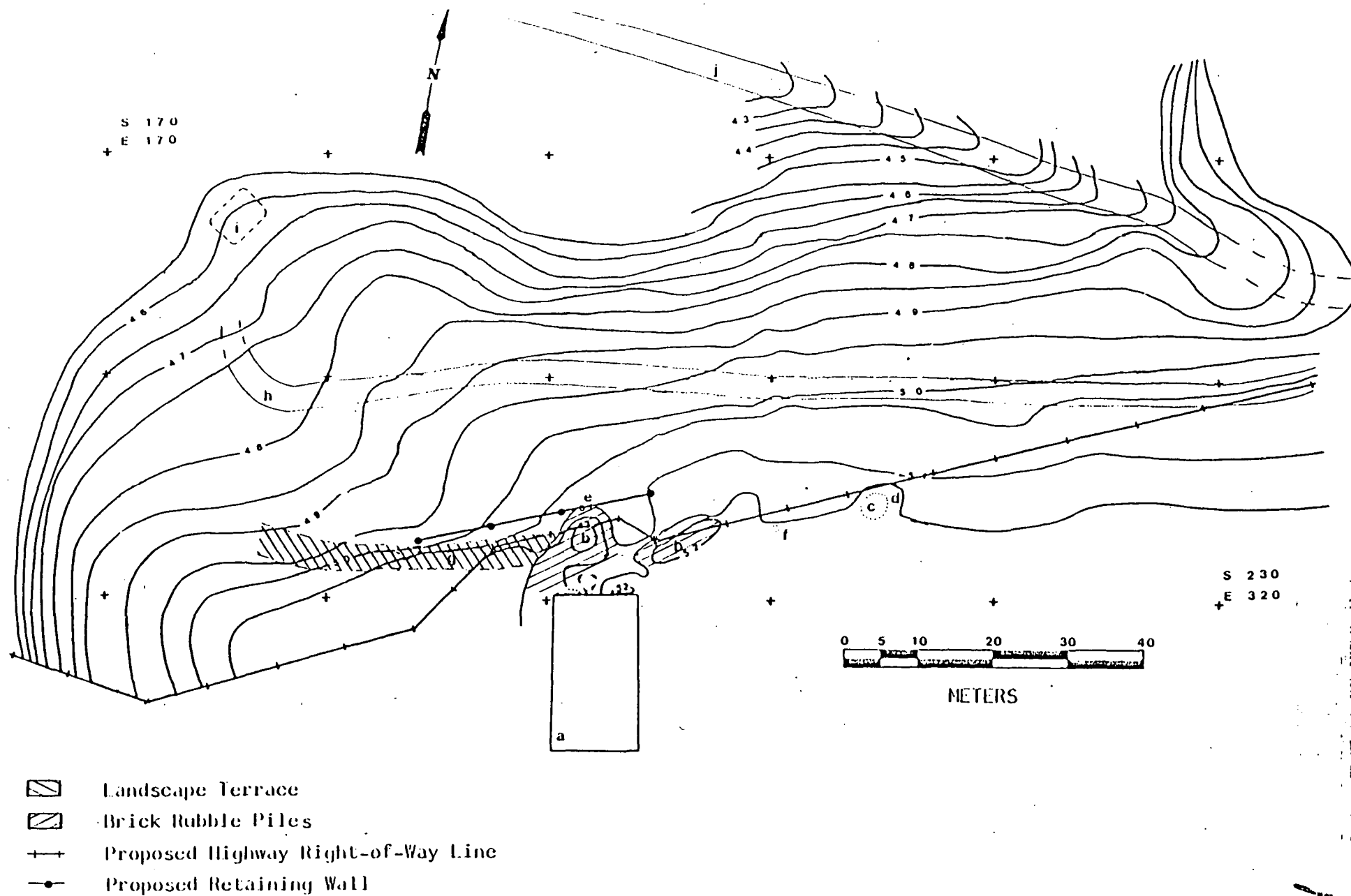


Figure 16. Location of Surface Features

terrace, a large hole, mounds of probable fill, and two roads were observed and mapped. Controlled excavations were undertaken on all above-grade features within the proposed impact zone.

#### 1983/84 TEST EXCAVATIONS

As a preliminary step, a grid was imposed on the site. This grid was erected in relation to the current highway center line. From State Highway station 66 a line 90° to the highway centerline was extended 15 meters south to the edge of the access road. This point was given the designation S200 E200. From this point, an east-west baseline was established at 102° east of the line ascribed by station 66 and S200 E200. The resultant grid was 10° west of magnetic north, and generally followed Dent's baseline down the current access road.

The test units were concentrated in five areas (Figure 15, above). The units within each of these areas will be described in turn in terms of soil horizons, functional attributes, and temporally diagnostic material. Only temporally diagnostic material is included in these discussions; the non-temporally diagnostic artifacts are available for study.

#### Area I

The location of a proposed retaining wall adjacent to the main house was tested with 13 units (Figure 17).

Test Units 1 and 2 were near the eastern limit of the proposed retaining wall. The stratigraphic sequence of the two units was quite similar. Under a layer of recent humic development (ca. 1-2 cm) a layer of concentrated rubble within a loam matrix was encountered. This layer (ca. 12 cm thick) in turn was underlain by a 4 cm thick stratum of lighter brown, somewhat leached loam. Beneath this leached horizon was undisturbed clayey subsoil.

#### Unit 1

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| layer 1<br>humus             | 4 19th-century window glass  |
| layer 2<br>topsoil           | 1 Staffordshire slipware<br>1 green-edged pearlware<br>11 19th-century bottle glass  |
| layer 3<br>bottom of topsoil | 1 pearlware<br>2 whiteware<br>1 19th-century European porcelain<br>3 19th-century gray stoneware<br>1 18th-century bottle glass<br>6 19th-century bottle glass |

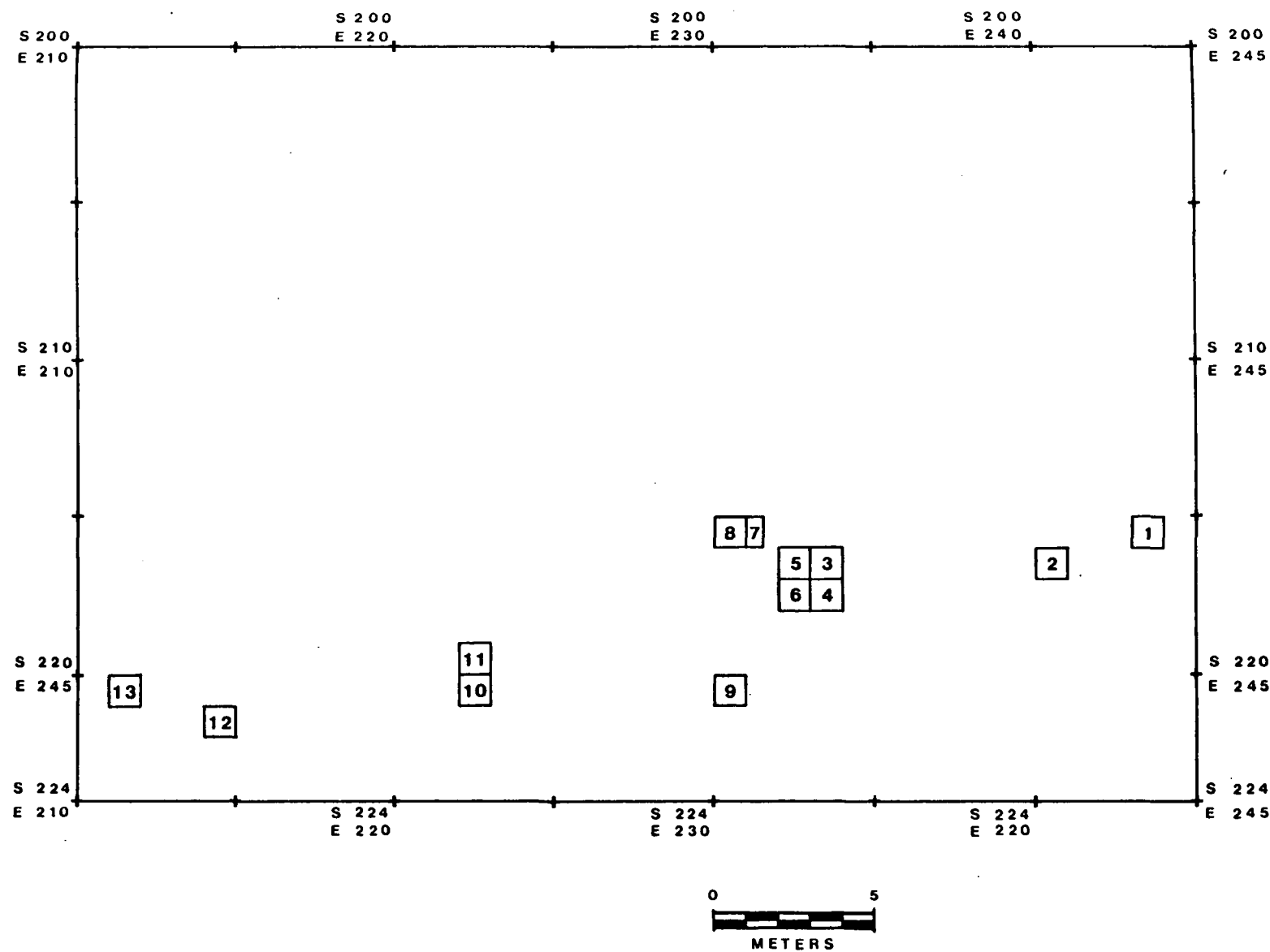


Figure 17. Location of Test Units, Area I



## Unit 2

layer 1  
humus

no temporally diagnostic material

layer 2  
topsoil

1 cream colored earthenware  
1 19th-century bottle glass

layer 3  
bottom of topsoil

1 pearlware  
1 whiteware  
4 19th-century bottle glass

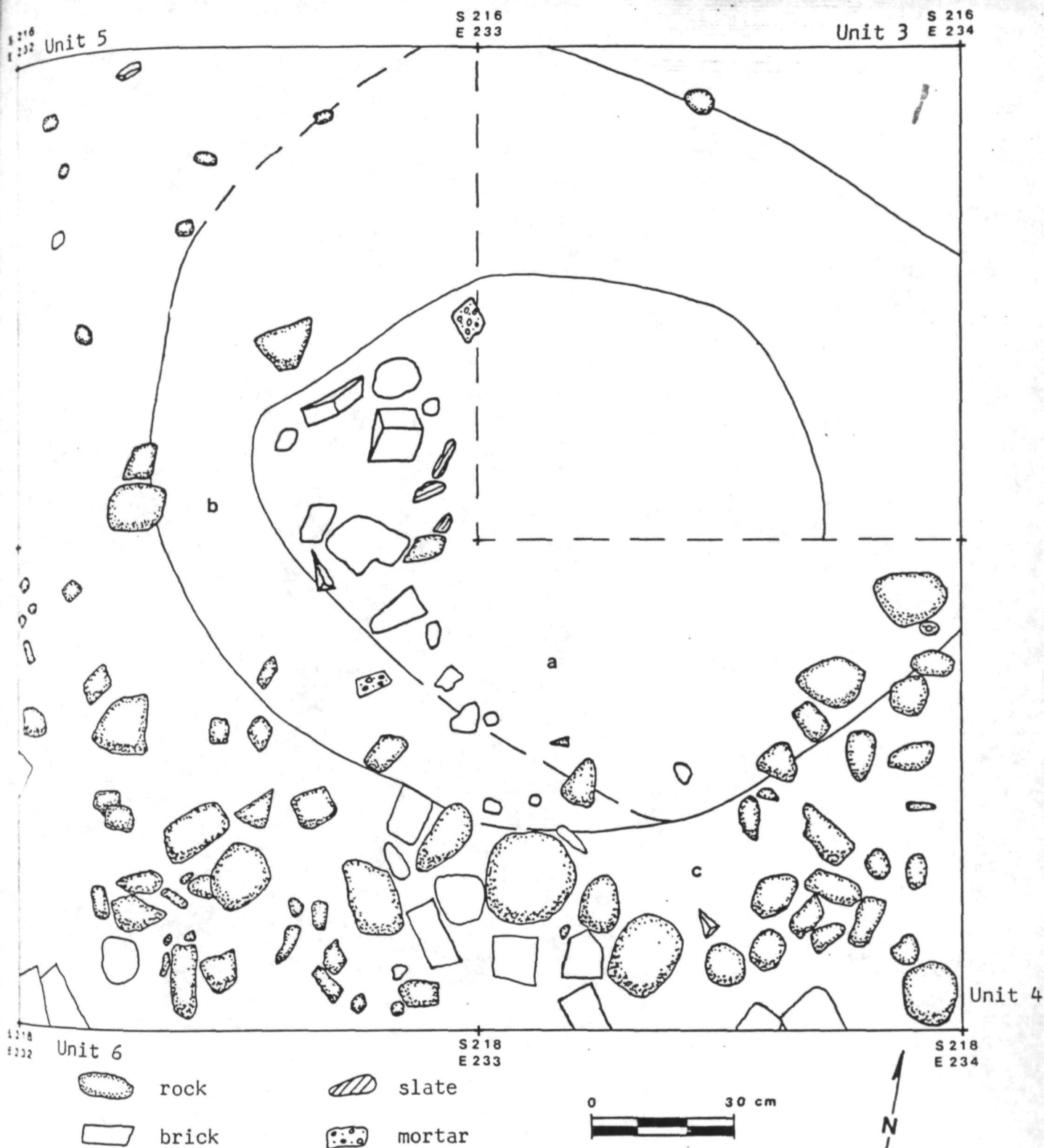
Both of these units appear to represent a relatively undisturbed natural soil horizon with artifact admixture limited to the topsoil. Each of the strata grades into the underlying layer as one would expect in a natural soil horizon. The mixture of 18th- and 19th-century artifacts recovered is indicative of accretional deposition through the span of the occupation.

Test units 3, 4, 5, and 6 were contiguous one-meter squares excavated to test a small depression near the center of the proposed retaining wall (Figure 17). Excavation was initiated in unit 3, then expanded to units 4, 5, and 6 to determine the extent of the feature. These units were immediately adjacent to a large pile of brickbats observed in the initial reconnaissance of the site (see Figure 16). Temporally diagnostic artifacts have not been listed for test units 3, 4, 5, and 6 as all strata excavated included coal ash indicating 19th-century disturbance.

After removal of a humic layer, surface debris, and a wedge of spillage from the before-mentioned brickbat pile, a roughly circular (diameter 1.2 m) intrusion filled with loose, ashy demolition rubble, and an outer ring (diameter 1.6 m) of more compact loam were exposed (Figure 18). The southeastern portion of the intrusion appears to be bordered by an area of cobble paving. In order to determine the function of this complex of features, excavation was continued in unit 3. Excavation in unit 3 was carried to a depth of roughly one meter below surface. At that level, a screw auger was used to continue the testing to a depth of 1.7 meters below surface. Additionally, a small (20 cm by 20 cm) exploratory cut was made to a depth of 1.25 meters below surface to confirm the results of the augering.

Test unit 3 was excavated in twenty separate provenience units. Figure 19 illustrates profiles of unit 3 demonstrating the different soil layers. The strata as exposed were quite complex, and in excavation some layers were split into arbitrary provenience units. A summary description of the events suggested by these strata follows.

The central core is filled with a loose agglomeration of rubble and ash (layers 1, 2, and 3). At the bottom of the excavation unit (ca. 97 cm below surface) the rubble layer was still present. The auger testing and exploratory cut suggest the fill extends an additional 25 cm and is underlain by a silty brown loam fill for at least an additional 40 cm. The exploratory cut and probing indicate a stone lining which begins at the same level as the silty brown loam (125 cm below surface). This apparent lining corresponds well with the outline shape of the loose, ashy fill above.



- a Circular intrusion - very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2), very loose rubble, minimal soil development.
- b Outer ring - dark brown (10YR3/3), silty loam with gravel, brick and mortar.
- c Soil matrix - dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4), silty clay loam mottled with very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) silty clay loam with gravel, brick and charcoal.

Figure 18. Area I, Units 4, 5, and 6 at bottom of Layer 3 and Unit 3 at bottom of Layer 4

Key to Figure 19

- a Layer 1 - Rubble and ash fill - very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) silty loam with brick. Some soil development.
- b Layer 2 - Rubble and ash fill - black (7.5YR2/0) loose rubble grading into very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) loose rubble with brick, slate and mortar. Virtually no soil development.
- c Layer 3 - Rubble and ash fill - black (10YR2/0) loose ashy fill with light brown (7.5YR6/4) ashy fill blending into very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) loose rubble with brick, ash, slate, mortar and shell. Minimal soil development.
- d Layer 4 - Slumped fill - dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) loose silty loam grading into dark brown (10YR3/3) silty loam mottled with dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6) silty loam and blending into brown-dark brown (10YR4/3) silty loam mottled with strong brown (7.5YR5/6) silty clay loam. Fill contains brick, mortar and charcoal.
- e Layer 5 - Silty fill - dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6) silty loam.
- f Layer 6 - Displaced subsoil - strong brown (7.5YR5/6) silty clay loam mottled with brown-dark brown (10YR4/3) silty loam.
- g Layer 7 - loam fill - dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) silty loam fill grading into dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) silty loam with a small quantity of brick and mortar.
- h Layer 8 - Subsoil - strong brown (7.5YR5/6) silty clay loam blending into yellowish brown (10YR5/6) silty clay loam and grading into very compact strong brown (7.5YR5/8) silty clay loam with gravel.

S 217

E 234

SOUTH WALL  
IN EXCAVATION BALK

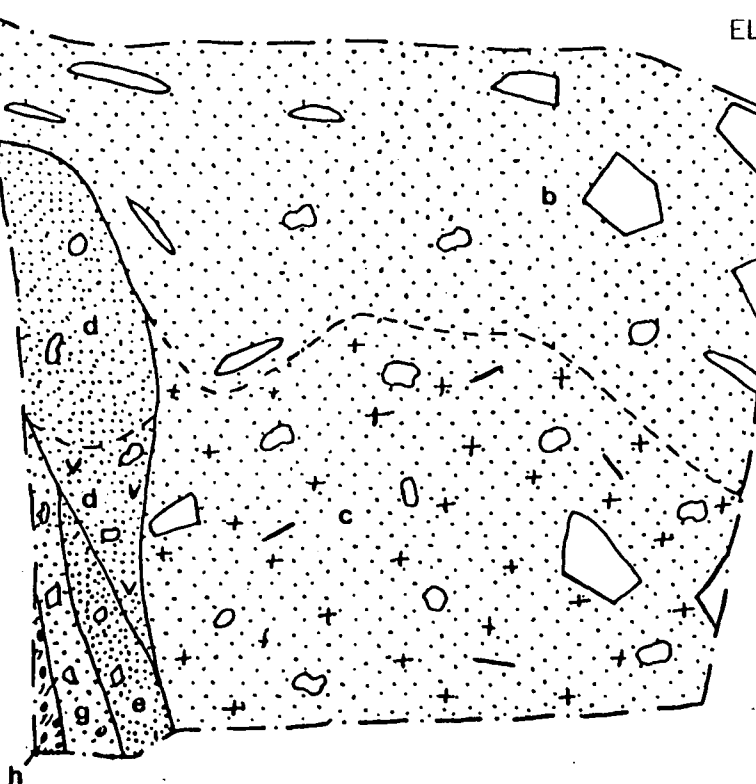
DATUM

— 51.0 A.S.L. —

ELEVATION

WEST WALL  
IN EXCAVATION BALK

0 CM —  
10 CM —  
20 CM —  
30 CM —  
40 CM —  
50 CM —  
60 CM —  
70 CM —  
80 CM —  
90 CM —  
100 CM —



BRICK



SHELL



CHARCOAL



ASH



SLATE



GRAVEL



MORTAR

0 CM —  
10 CM —  
20 CM —  
30 CM —  
40 CM —  
50 CM —  
60 CM —  
70 CM —  
80 CM —  
90 CM —  
100 CM —

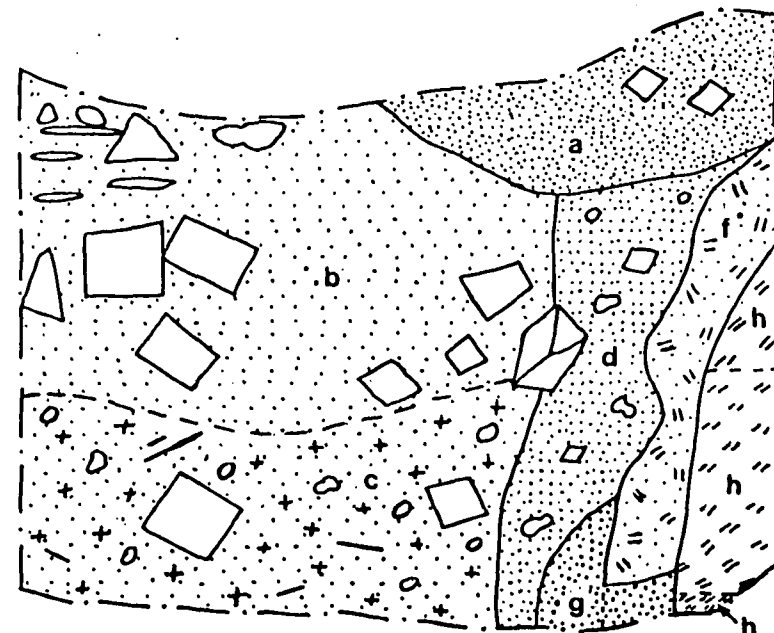


Figure 19. Area I, Unit 3, South and West Profiles through Well Fill

Immediately adjacent to the loose ashy core is a slumped fill of silty brown loam with occasional brickbats and mortar lumps (layer 4). Beneath the slumped fill on the southern profile one encounters a silty lens of fill (layer 5), while on the western profile, the slumped fill is surrounded by a clayey, displaced subsoil stratum (layer 6). Surrounding the lens of silty fill is a yellowish brown loam stratum (layer 7). Beyond this loam stratum and beneath the displaced subsoil stratum is a charcoal-rich, brown loam fill (layer 8). This stratum lies against an undisturbed strong brown clay subsoil.

Layers 1, 2, and 3 appear to all relate to one general event of infilling with differentiation resulting from the level of soil development and filtration. Layers 4, 5, and 6 may well relate to a single event of filling or slumping from a very lensed fill source. Layer 7 is probably one event, or two stages of the same event with possible functional associations. All of these strata contained coal ash or other 19th-century material indicating that the disturbances occurred at that time.

The sequence of events which resulted in this feature has been hypothesized as a well which was either repaired or robbed out (or both) prior to the systematic retrieval of the brick from the house in the 1930's. The central ashy fill resulted from material from the brick retrieval operation falling into an existing hole. The hole may have resulted from the robbing out of the well head either to salvage cobble stones or to fill and cap the well for safety reasons. Conversely, the well may have been repaired as indicated by the outer rings of fill (layer 4 and 5). These strata would have had to have been in place before the loose ashy fill was deposited. This may be indicative of backfill following repair rather than backfilling following a robbing since in the latter case the fill would have slumped into the central portion of the shaft. The soil horizon which occurs beyond the backfill may relate to the repair or an earlier episode of repair. These hypotheses can only be addressed through further investigation and excavation of this feature.

While current test excavations suggest possible repair of the top portion of the well, this should not be taken as negatively affecting the integrity of the feature. If the repair dates to the period of tenant occupation, data derived from the excavation could provide details on how well the site was maintained while a rental property. The evidence of repair would yield substantive insights into the site's long-term development. Additionally, current tests suggest the repair would have only affected at most the top one and a half meters of the feature. Given the depth of the water table in the area, one would expect to find 10-12 meters of the well fill undisturbed by the repair (personal communication, John Wilson 1984). Such fill could yield significant artifactual remains given the favorable conditions for preservation usually encountered in wells (see Noel Hume 1969:144).

Test Units 7 and 8 were contiguous excavation units which exposed an area of 1 by 1.5 meters. Beneath a layer of humus (8-13 cm) a thin scatter of brickbats was discovered within a brown loam (topsoil) matrix. Beneath the topsoil and rubble stratum (8 to 10 cm) a paler loam horizon was encountered. This stratum (9-10 cm) was the more leached bottom of topsoil. Below this layer, a roughly square intrusion (50 cm by 50 cm) was exposed (feature 2). The square intrusion was filled with a mixture of brown loam and strong brown

clay. In the center of the square feature was a circular feature roughly 20 cm in diameter, with a dark brown loam fill (feature 1). These features intruded into subsoil roughly 20 cm (Figure 20).

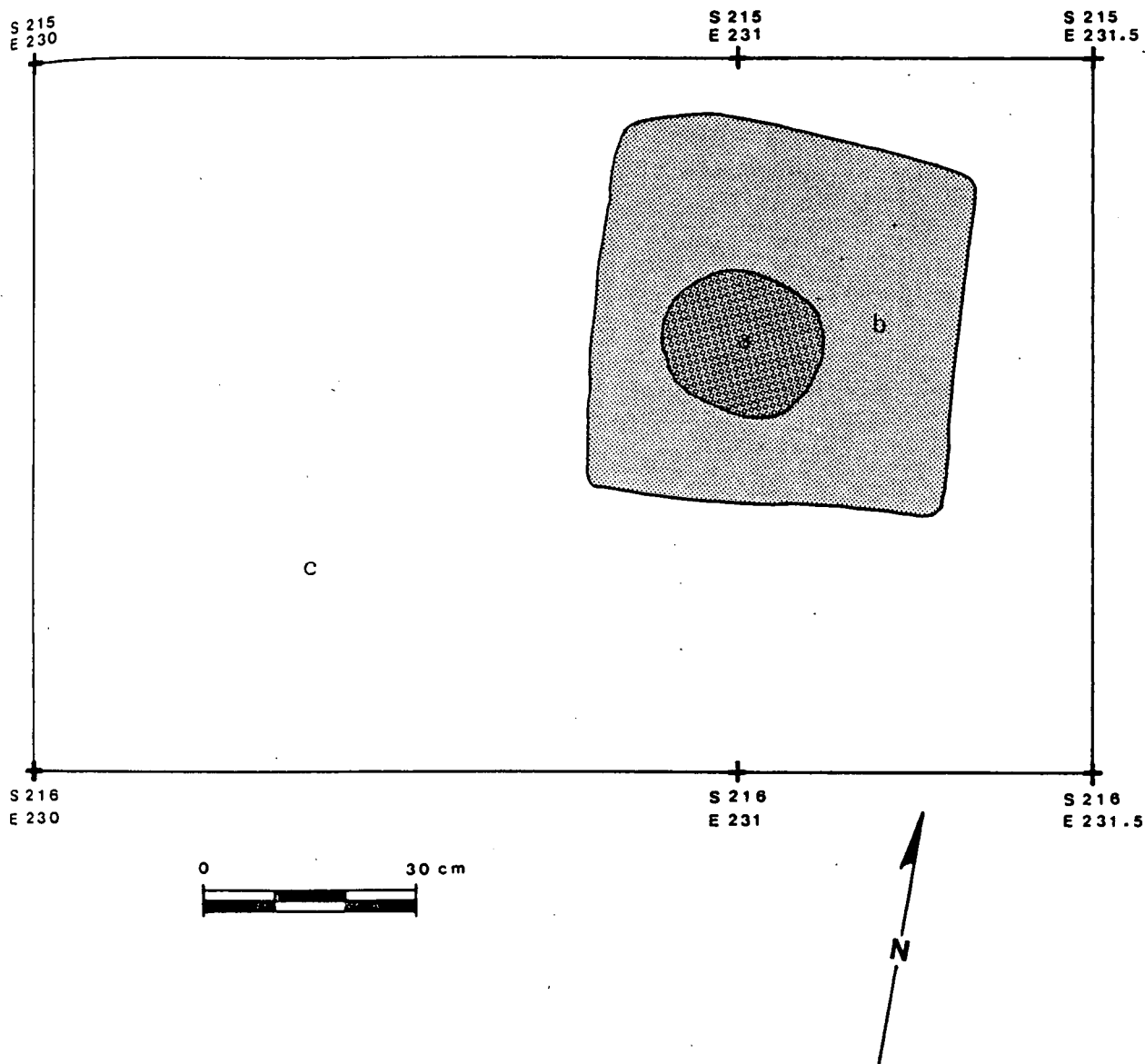
#### Unit 7

|                   |   |                                   |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| layer 1           |   | no temporally diagnostic material |
| humus             |   |                                   |
| layer 2           | 1 | whiteware                         |
| topsoil           | 1 | 19th-century porcelain            |
|                   | 1 | 19th-century grey stoneware       |
|                   | 1 | 18th-century bottle glass         |
|                   | 7 | 19th-century bottle glass         |
| layer 3           | 1 | creamware                         |
| bottom of topsoil | 2 | pearlware                         |
|                   | 5 | whiteware                         |
|                   | 4 | 19th-century bottle glass         |

#### Unit 8

|                   |   |                                     |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| layer 1           | 1 | 18th-century bottle glass           |
| humus             | 1 | 19th-century bottle glass           |
| layer 2           | 1 | tin glazed earthenware              |
| topsoil           | 2 | 19th-century Bristol-type stoneware |
|                   | 4 | 19th-century bottle glass           |
| layer 3           | 1 | pearlware                           |
| bottom of topsoil | 1 | whiteware                           |
|                   | 1 | 19th-century grey stoneware         |
|                   | 2 | 18th-century bottle glass           |
|                   | 5 | 19th-century bottle glass           |
| feature 1         | 2 | 18th-century Chinese porcelain      |
| post mold         | 1 | creamware                           |
|                   | 1 | 18th-century bottle glass           |
| feature 2         | 1 | English brown stoneware             |
| post hole         | 1 | 18th-century Chinese porcelain      |
|                   | 1 | creamware                           |
|                   | 1 | pearlware                           |
|                   | 4 | 18th-century bottle glass           |
|                   | 3 | 18th-century table glass            |

The current interpretation of the square feature with the round intrusion is that of a post hole-post mold complex with the inner fill representing the mold of the decayed or removed post and the outer fill the dug hole. Given the small size and depth of the mold it is more likely a fence post rather



- a Feature 1 (post mold) - dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) gritty loam with mortar.
- b Feature 2 (post hole) - dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) clay loam mottled with strong brown (7.5YR5/8) clay.
- c Subsoil - strong brown (7.5YR5/6) clay.

Figure 20. Area I, Units 7 and 8 at bottom of Layer 3

than a structural post. Artifacts from the mold and hole fills indicate a late 18th- or early 19th-century date. The most recent artifact is a sherd of pearlware recovered from the hole fill.

Without further areal excavation the purpose of this post is difficult to suggest. It may be indicative of a fence dividing the side yard into activity areas. Further research is needed to confirm or refute this hypothesis.

Test unit 9 was a one-meter-square excavation unit placed to investigate a large pile of brick rubble observed in clearing the retaining wall area. Beneath a rubble layer (which covered the square) a somewhat leached, buried topsoil was encountered. This was removed as a layer of ca. 8-10 cm. At this point an ill-defined, but linear soil feature was exposed (Figure 21). This feature had a somewhat mottled fill with the matrical subsoil showing reddish discoloration. Nineteenth-century artifacts were recovered from the feature. The bottom of the feature was generally irregular. These disturbances may represent a linear planting ditch, the irregular bottom resulting from the roots of the planting. The outer, reddish stained area probably results from accumulation of soluble ferric elements concentrated in the water filtering through the planting hole.

#### Unit 9

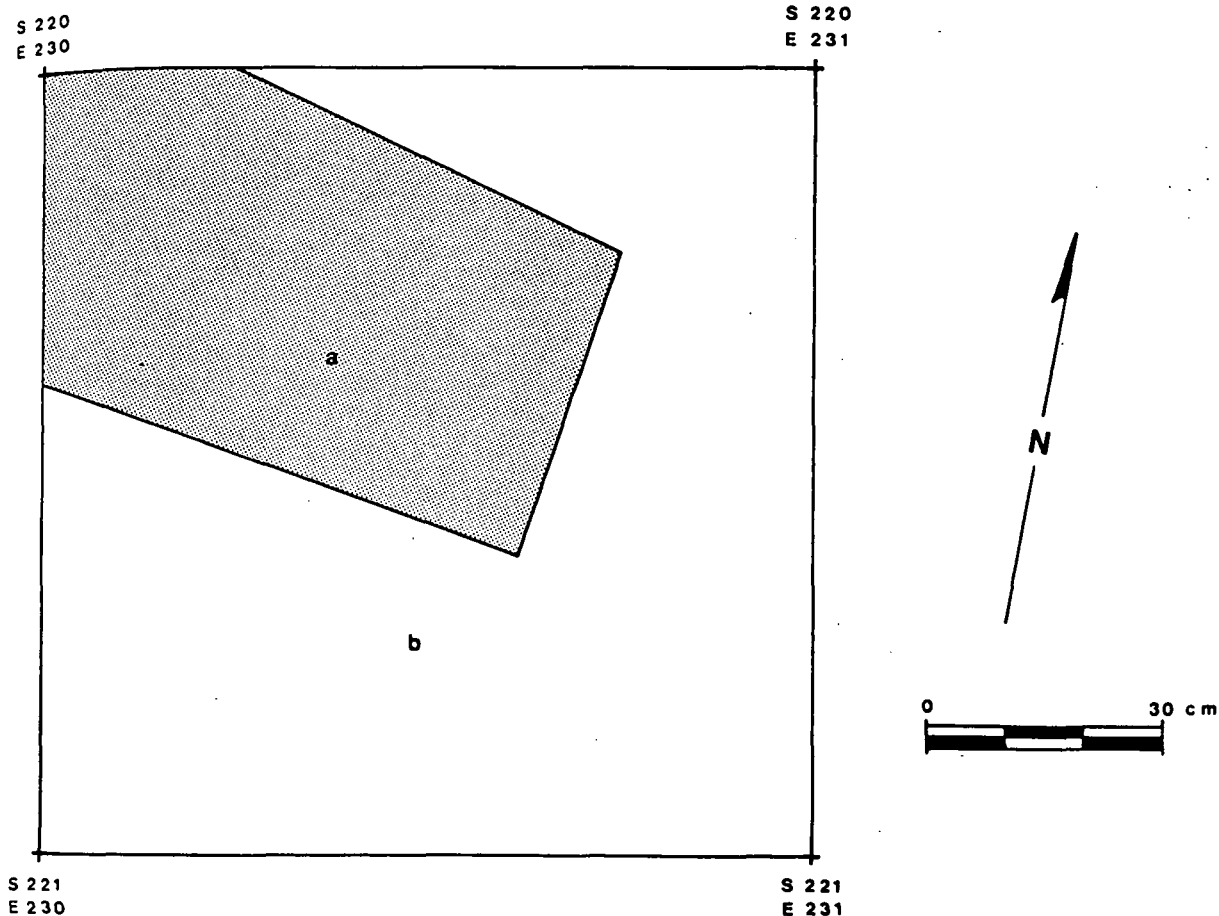
|                |    |                                |
|----------------|----|--------------------------------|
| layer 1        | 24 | 19th-century bottle glass      |
| rubble layer   |    |                                |
| layer 2        | 1  | Rhenish stoneware              |
| buried topsoil | 1  | 18th-century Chinese porcelain |
|                | 2  | pearlware                      |
|                | 25 | whiteware                      |
|                | 6  | grey stoneware                 |
| feature 1      | 1  | whiteware                      |
| planting ditch | 7  | cut nails                      |

These strata suggest a large quantity of rubble was deposited in this location, most likely after site abandonment. This rubble probably resulted from the reclaiming of usable bricks after the house had been destroyed by fire. No whole bricks were observed in the rubble, supporting the contention that it was the waste from a reclaiming operation. The linear feature, as has been noted, probably represents a 19th-century planting ditch for some type of ornamental.

Test units 10 and 11 were contiguous one-meter squares in the western area of the retaining wall impact zone. Unit 10 was excavated first, then unit 11 was opened to follow an apparent cultural feature. The two units are discussed together.

A 3 cm layer of humus was removed from both squares exposing a homogeneous topsoil stratum. The topsoil was removed to a depth of 10 cm below surface which exposed a horizon of pebbly loam roughly 2 to 6 cm in thickness. After removal of the pebbly loam, a complex of features intrusive into the subsoil was observed. These included a linear feature extending through both





- a Feature 1 (planting ditch) - dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) silty clay mottled with yellowish brown (10YR5/6) clay.
- b Subsoil - yellowish brown (10YR5/6) clay mottled with dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) clay and iron deposits.

Figure 21. Area I, Unit 9 at bottom of Layer 2

squares, a possible post hole and post mold combination, a circular intrusion within the linear intrusion, and a number of small root disturbances (Figure 22).

#### Unit 10

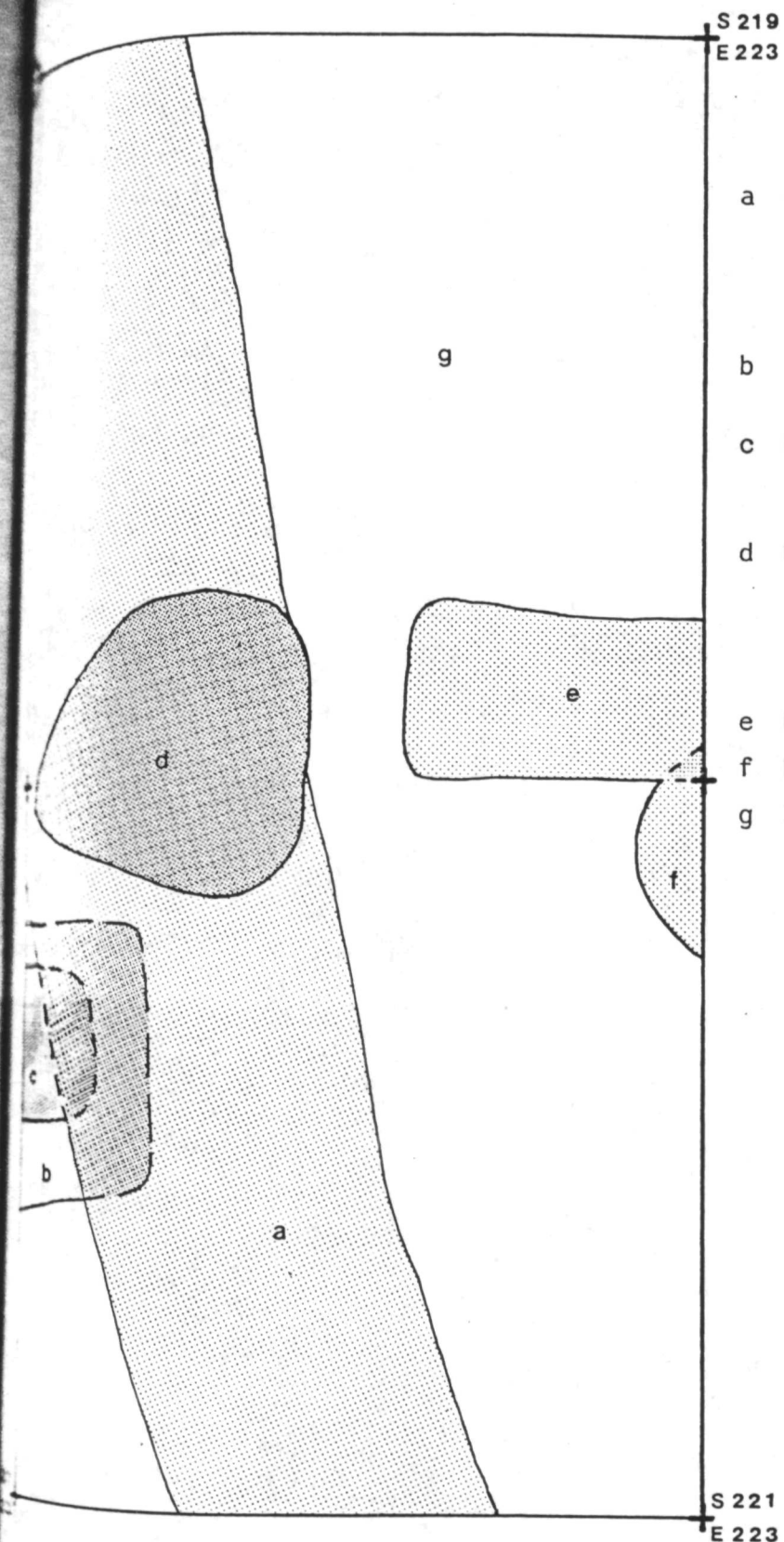
|                           |    |                                    |
|---------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| layer 1<br>humus          | 1  | dipped white salt-glazed stoneware |
|                           | 1  | whiteware                          |
|                           | 1  | cream-colored earthenware          |
|                           | 2  | 18th-century bottle glass          |
| layer 2<br>topsoil        | 1  | tin-glazed earthenware             |
|                           | 2  | 18th-century Chinese porcelain     |
|                           | 7  | creamware                          |
|                           | 4  | pearlware                          |
|                           | 14 | 18th-century bottle glass          |
| layer 3<br>pebbly horizon | 3  | 19th-century bottle glass          |
|                           | 5  | tin-glazed earthenware             |
|                           | 1  | English brown stoneware            |
|                           | 1  | creamware                          |
|                           | 1  | Staffordshire slipware             |
|                           | 1  | pearlware                          |
|                           | 1  | whiteware                          |
|                           | 1  | 19th-century European porcelain    |
|                           | 21 | 18th-century bottle glass          |
|                           | 3  | 19th-century bottle glass          |

#### Unit 11

|                           |    |                                |
|---------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| layer 1<br>humus          | 1  | tin-glazed earthenware         |
|                           | 2  | 18th-century bottle glass      |
| layer 2<br>topsoil        | 1  | white salt glazed stoneware    |
|                           | 2  | tin-glazed earthenware         |
|                           | 1  | 18th-century Chinese porcelain |
|                           | 2  | creamware                      |
|                           | 1  | pearlware                      |
|                           | 1  | whiteware                      |
| layer 3<br>pebbly horizon | 17 | 18th-century bottle glass      |
|                           | 4  | 19th-century bottle glass      |
|                           | 1  | 18th-century bottle glass      |

#### Units 10 and 11

|                             |   |                                   |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| feature 1<br>planting ditch | 2 | whiteware                         |
|                             | 1 | English brown stoneware           |
| feature 2<br>post hole      | 1 | 18th-century bottle glass         |
| feature 3<br>post mold      |   | no temporally diagnostic material |



- a Feature 1 (planting ditch) - dark brown (10YR3/3) clay loam mottled with yellowish brown (10YR5/6) clay with brick and charcoal fragments.
- b Feature 2 (post hole) - dark brown (10YR3/3) clayey loam.
- c Feature 3 (post mold) - yellowish brown (10YR5/6) with dark brown (10YR3/3) loamy clay.
- d Feature 4 (planting hole) - very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) loam with yellowish brown (10YR5/6) and yellowish brown (10YR5/4) clay lump.
- e Root disturbance.
- f Root disturbance.
- g Subsoil - yellowish brown (10YR5/6) clay.

Figure 22. Area I, Units 10 and 11 at bottom of Layer 3

feature 4  
planting hole

1 18th-century bottle glass  
3 coal fragments

The current interpretation of this complex of features is a linear planting ditch with an intrusive planting hole (feature 4) and a nearby post hole and mold. The overlying strata contain considerable 18th-century domestic debris with some 19th-century material admixed. This indicates a relatively high activity area within the side yard. Based on their size, the post hole and mold are probably related to a fence. All of these observations are quite tentative and further excavation in adjacent areas is necessary to explicate the range of activities represented.

Test units 12 and 13 contained four discrete layers. First, 5-6 cm of humic loam were removed to expose a dark brown topsoil horizon. Three to six centimeters of the brown loam topsoil were then excavated down to a lighter brown loam. The lighter brown loam was found to be 2-3 cm in thickness and when removed revealed a yellowish brown clay soil. This stratum was removed to a level of roughly 1 cm and determined to be subsoil.

#### Unit 12

layer 1  
humus

no temporally diagnostic material

layer 2  
topsoil

1 English brown stoneware  
2 18th-century bottle glass  
3 19th-century bottle glass

layer 3  
top of subsoil

1 whiteware  
1 19th-century bottle glass

layer 4  
subsoil

no temporally diagnostic material

#### Unit 13

layer 1  
humus

no temporally diagnostic material

layer 2  
topsoil

no temporally diagnostic material

layer 3  
top of subsoil

no temporally diagnostic material

Units 12 and 13 appear to represent natural soil horizons. As in the case in units 1 and 2, no subsurface features were encountered. These pits appear to delimit the western edge of the activity locus which surrounded the northern end of the "great house".

In sum, Area I represents a very complex locus of activity in the area immediately adjacent to the "great house" at Oxon Hill. An apparent well, two probable fence posts, and several planting or landscaping features were exposed. Only four of the thirteen excavation units failed to reveal subsurface cultural features. Given the small area examined by these excavations and the density of cultural deposition encountered, there are undoubtedly numerous other cultural features present. Only large, areal excavations could possibly explicate these features and relate them to other features yet to be discovered in this area.

Each of the features uncovered in Area I represents a significant source of information concerning the Oxon Hill Manor site. The well fill has a high potential for containing unusually well-preserved artifacts. Organic items which would decay in the soil can be preserved in the anaerobic environment of water-logged well fill. This could provide unique data on this site. The location and orientation of planting ditches and fence posts will provide information on how the yards adjacent to the house were divided and utilized. Temporal differences in yard divisions based on artifact and feature analysis can document the changing use of yard space. As products of a Georgian worldview, the Addisons' use of space should mirror this mindset. How the Addisons divided and decorated their yards provides unique insights into these individuals as conspicuous consumers advertising their wealth and status within the tobacco-based oligarchy of Tidewater Maryland.

#### Area II

On the northern side of the current access road to the site, a large slope area was investigated with ten one-meter-square excavation units (see Figure 15 and Figure 23). This area was selected for testing based on the concentration of 18<sup>th</sup>-century material indicated by the distributional analysis (see above). As similar sequences were uncovered in many of the units the results of these excavations will be summarized below. Each individual unit is discussed in Appendix II.

Two general soil patterns emerged from the excavation of test units in Area II. The first of these can be described as a natural soil sequence of a thin modern humus overlying topsoil which in turn overlies a clayey or gravelly subsoil. This stratigraphic sequence is represented in test units 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. While some downward admixture of later material occurs, it is most likely the result of root action. The best model for these depositions is slow accretional accumulation of domestic debris within a naturally developing soil horizon.

The second type of soil sequence encountered in Area II is indicative of colluvial reworking of the soils resulting in strata being buried by slope wash. A modern humus overlies a water-transported, silty topsoil which in turn overlies an eroded topsoil above a clayey or gravelly subsoil. This sequence occurs in test units 1, 8, 9, and 10. In all of these cases, more recent artifacts are buried beneath strata containing older material. The soils containing the older material had to have moved down slope as a result of water and gravity.

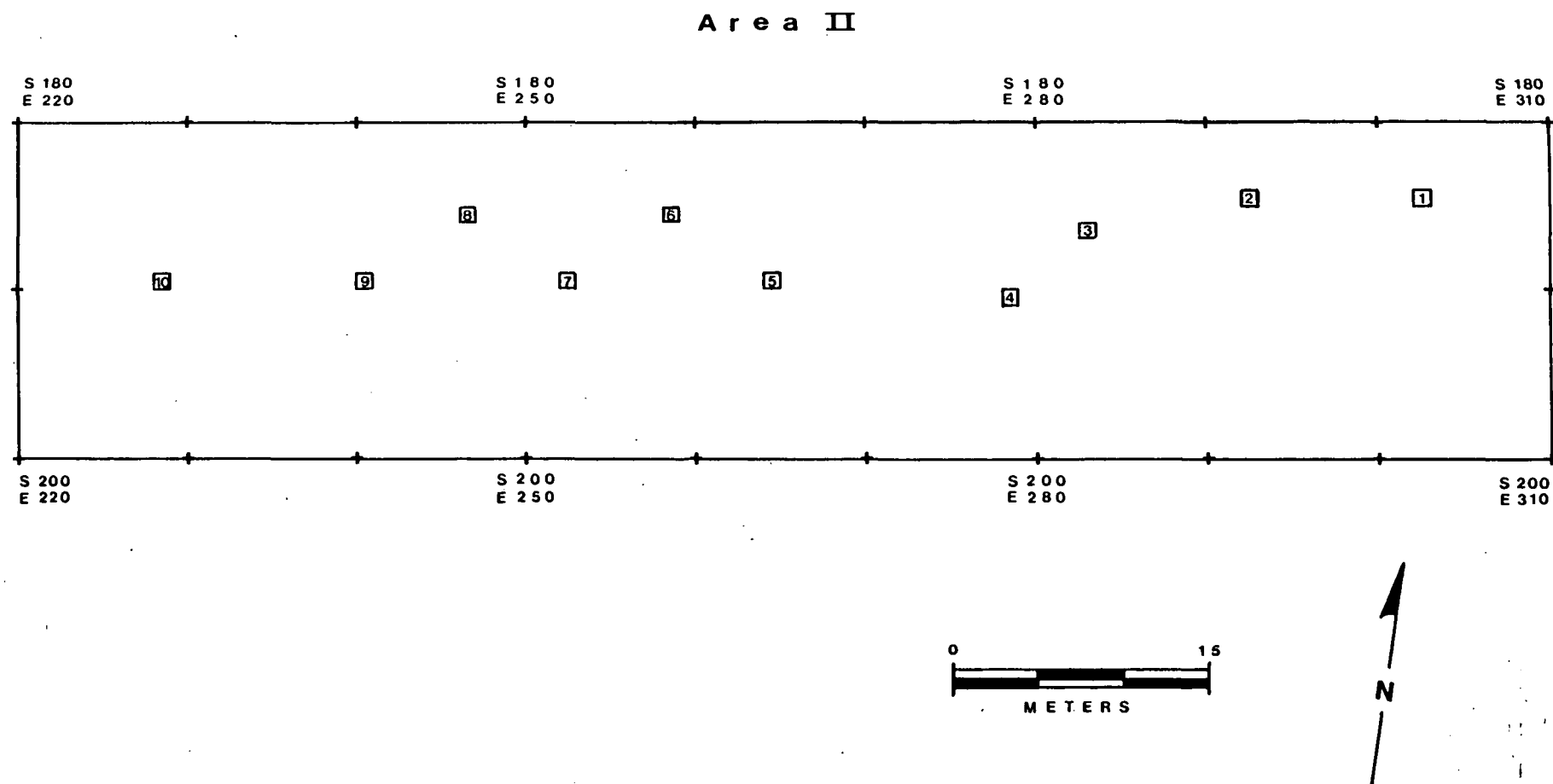


Figure 23. Location of Test Units, Area II

The 18th-century material recovered from the test pits in Area II appears to be concentrated between E220 and E270 (Figure 24). This correlates reasonably well with the greatest concentration of 18th-century materials demonstrated in the distributional analysis (see above). Area II appears to represent a primary location of domestic refuse deposition from the main house at Oxon Hill. The material is most concentrated opposite the main house foundations. The slope would have been a convenient location to dispose of domestic debris generated by occupation.

One caveat must be noted. As previously stated, following completion of this study, a detailed map of the Oxon Hill Manor site dating to 1863 was obtained. This map indicates a structure near the southern limit of Area II and another near the southeastern corner of the same area. Some of the domestic debris recovered in Area II may have been derived from the outbuildings. However, given the quantity of the material indicated and the presence of high status ceramics such as black basalt, it seems likely the artifact depositions originated from the "great house" in addition to that derived from the newly indicated outbuildings.

The two types of deposits represented in Area II both contain notable artifact accumulations. While the test squares representing slope wash deposits lack stratigraphic integrity, their utility as analyzable resources has not been impaired. Historic artifacts can be easily and effectively separated into temporal groups even if the temporal groups are mixed by disturbance of the stratigraphic sequence. As key tools in the study of change through time, the artifacts can be placed back into a temporal sequence. Ceramics are particularly effective sources of such diachronic analyses. The ceramics from Area II could be sorted into temporal groups, regardless of the integrity of the strata from which they were recovered, to address questions of status differentiation through time. As demonstrated by Miller (1980), site status and conspicuous consumption can be documented by the study of ceramic decoration. By establishing a minimal standard for the lowest status ceramic decoration (undecorated) and calculating added value and cost based on decoration, the willingness of site occupants to dispose of income on ceramics can be documented. Miller (1980:27) established the added cost/value of the various decorations available through an exhaustive study of ceramic wholesalers' and importers' records. His work can allow us to place a ceramic collection in perspective, study diachronic change within a given collection, and compare ceramic assemblages between sites.

The artifact deposits represented in Area II present us with a rare chance to compare the assemblages of a wealthy slave-holding oligarchy with that of later, albeit wealthy, tenants. Specific questions of status and conspicuous consumption can be approached through careful analyses of these materials. As such, the slope deposits in Area II are a significant resource relating to important research questions at Oxon Hill. They provide us with unique information about the status of occupants at the site and how this status, as reflected in the artifactual record, changes through time.

### Area III

As mentioned in the 1983/84 Pedestrian Reconnaissance (above) a rectangular mound was observed in the extreme northwestern portion of the site. In addition, there is a cluster of artifacts in this area indicated by

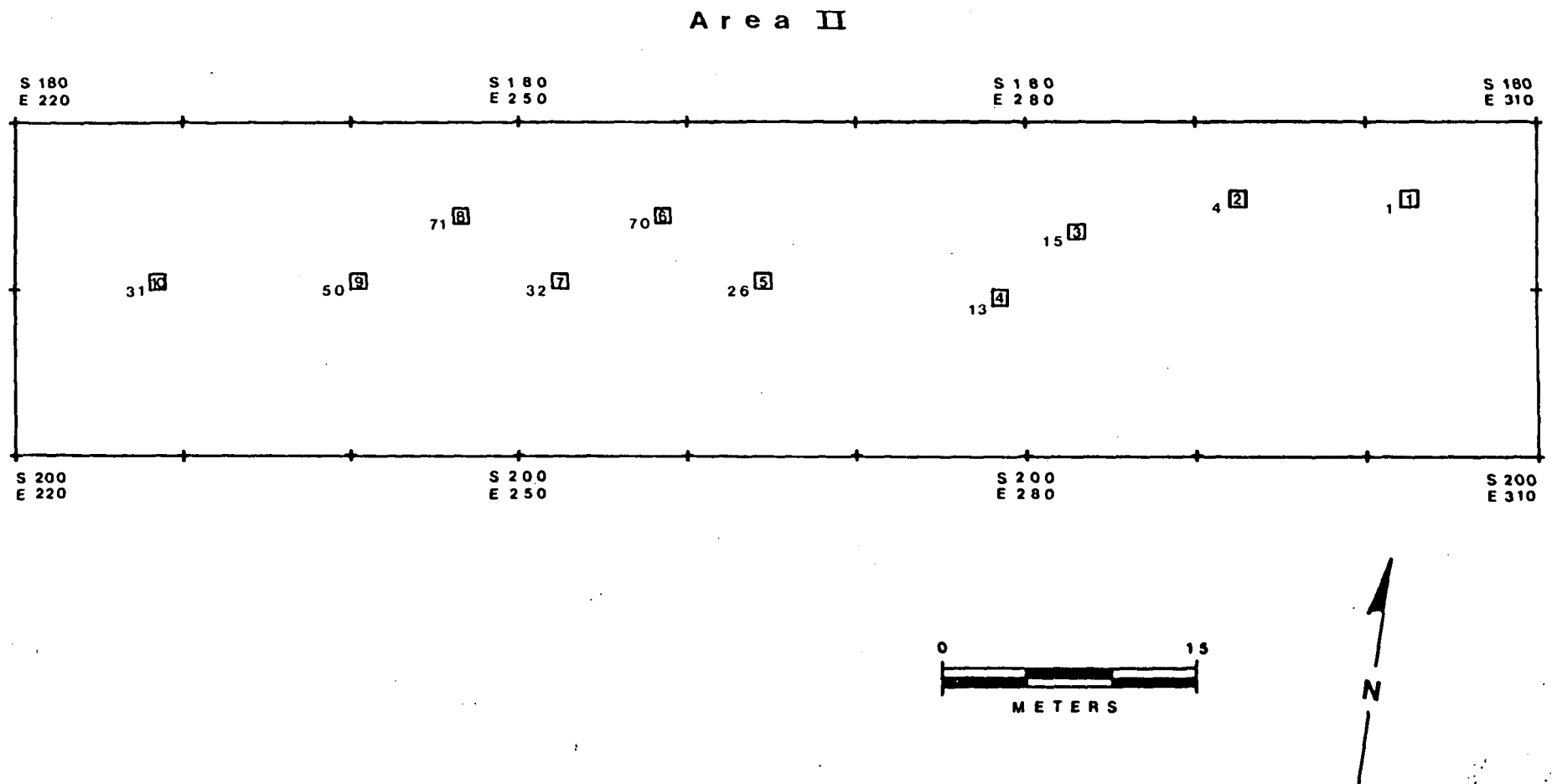


Figure 24. Area II, Frequency of Eighteenth-Century Material



Dent's systematic sample (see Artifact Distribution Analysis above). For these reasons, two test units were excavated through the mound to explore function and time period (see Figure 15 and Figure 25).

Unit 1 was excavated in five natural strata. Beneath 6-12 cm of humus and topsoil, a very lensed and mixed fill horizon was uncovered. This layer appears to have been the result of numerous tips of fill from varying sources deposited at one point in time. In section (Figure 26) one can see how these various fills resulted in a deposit roughly 30 cm thick. Beneath the deposit of fill, a very gravelly, leached topsoil was encountered. This stratum was 7 cm thick and was in turn followed by a gravelly, strong brown clay subsoil.

#### Unit 1

|                                |    |                               |
|--------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| layer 1<br>humus and topsoil   | 2  | whiteware                     |
| layers 2, 3 & 4<br>mixed fills | 1  | Rhenish stoneware             |
|                                | 4  | creamware                     |
|                                | 4  | pearlware                     |
|                                | 13 | whiteware                     |
|                                | 2  | yellowware                    |
|                                | 2  | 19th-century grey stoneware   |
|                                | 10 | 19th-century bottle glass     |
|                                | 1  | hurricane globe lamp fragment |
| layer 5<br>buried topsoil      | 2  | creamware                     |
|                                | 1  | pearlware                     |

The sequence of events suggested by the excavation of this unit is as follows. Thirty centimeters of fill were deposited above a shallow topsoil which contains only 18th-century and early 19th-century artifacts. The fill horizon was apparently deposited in the mid-19th century given the larger numbers of refined earthenwares included. After site abandonment, a new humic horizon developed above the fill.

Unit 2 was just south of unit 1 and placed in an attempt to intersect the edge of the mound. The unit was excavated in three natural horizons. First, 3-5 cm of humic loam were removed to expose a horizon of gravelly, strong brown clay. Four to 9 cm of the strong brown clay were removed to expose an even more cobbly strong brown clay subsoil. Three centimeters of this latter level were removed to reach sterile subsoil.

#### Unit 2

|                                     |   |                                |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| layer 1<br>humus and topsoil        |   | no diagnostic material         |
| layer 2                             | 1 | 18th-century Chinese porcelain |
| bottom of topsoil and<br>mixed fill | 1 | creamware                      |
|                                     | 3 | whiteware                      |
|                                     | 1 | 19th-century table glass       |

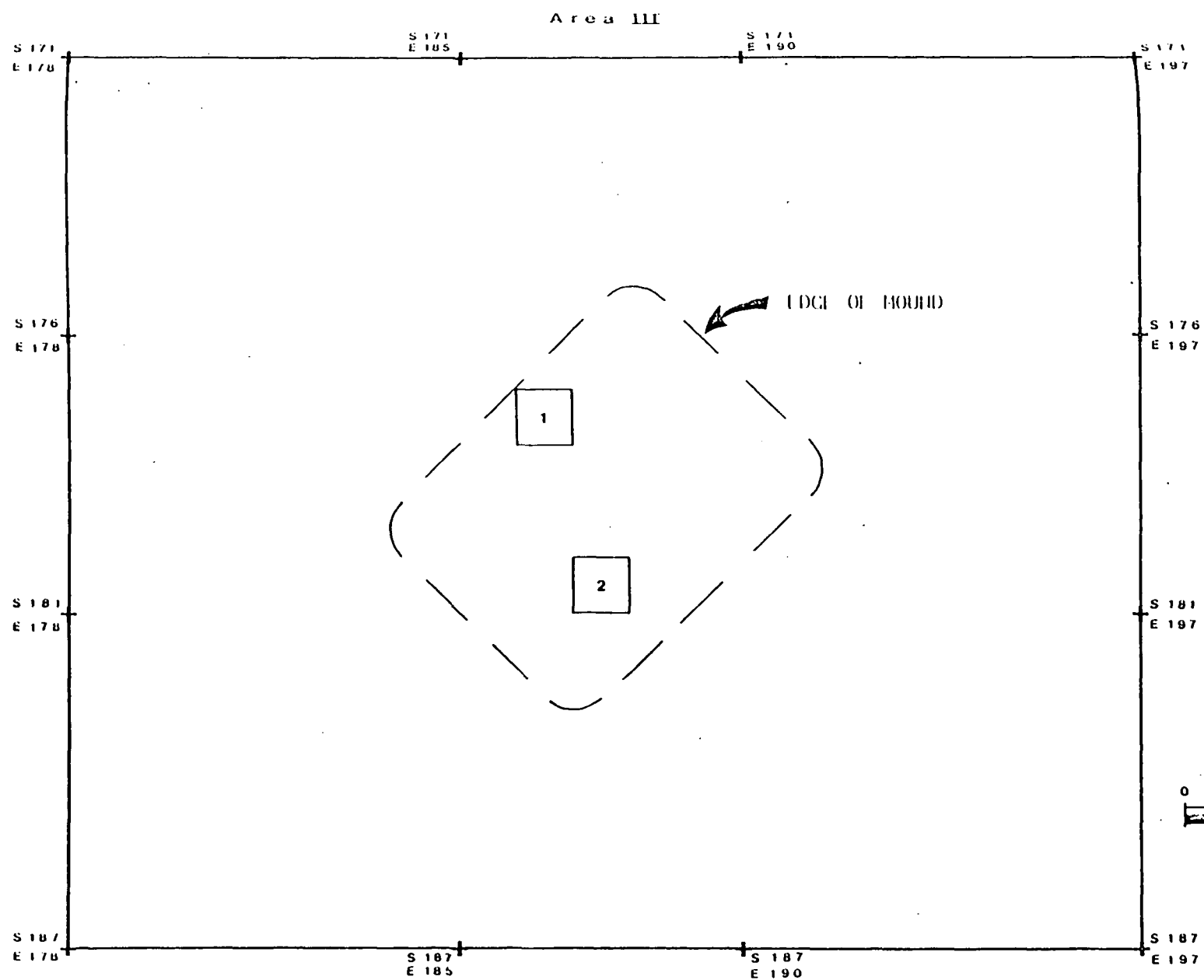
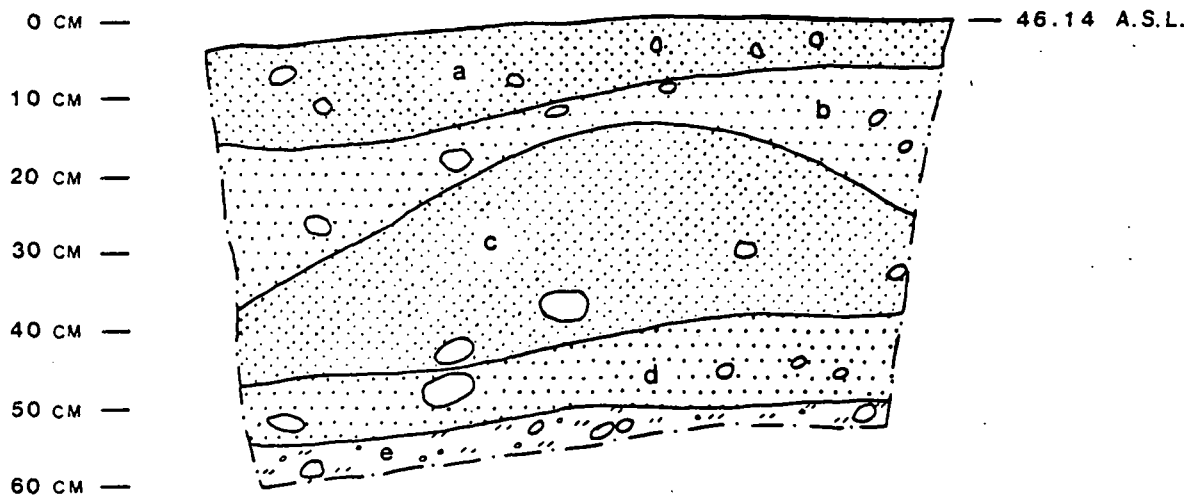


Figure 25. Location of Test Units, Area III

# Unit 1



- a Layer 1 - Humus - brown-dark brown (10YR4/3) loam.
- b Layer 2 - Fill - dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6) mottled with brown-dark brown (10YR4/3) silty clay loam with cobbles.
- c Layers 3 & 4 - Fill - dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) silty loam with cobbles.
- d Layer 5 - buried topsoil - dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6) silty clay loam with cobbles.
- e Subsoil - strong brown (7.5YR5/6) clayey loam with cobbles and gravel, very compact.

Figure 26. Area III, Unit 1, Eastern Profile

layer 3  
top of subsoil

1 creamware  
1 19th-century table glass

The stratigraphic sequence and artifactual content suggest that this unit represents a sequence similar to that in unit 1. The fill stratum in this pit was quite thin and indistinguishable from the bottom of the topsoil. The humic layer that developed above the fill was generally free of artifactual material while the subsoil beneath the fill contained some 19th-century material. Both the fill and bottom of topsoil contain 19th-century artifacts. As is the case in unit 1, the evidence points to the fill being deposited in the mid-to-late 19th century.

An idealized cross-section through the mound utilizing the data recovered from units 1 and 2 is presented in Figure 27. It would appear that the fill was deposited on the slope to create a flat area. The fill is thicker to the north as ground level is dropping off in that direction. The mound of fill is quite rectangular (6.5 x 5 meters) and is obviously not a casual deposition as it appears to have been graded level on top. Given the artifact cluster which surrounds it, the fill may represent an intentional deposition to create a level area to build a structure. Artifactual data suggest the fill was deposited in the mid-19th century. Additional excavation through, and adjacent to, the mound are needed to confirm or refute these hypotheses.

Excavation of Area III would allow us to firmly date the feature and perhaps describe a function for the structure once located there. Specific questions of yard use and site layout and how these changed through time could be addressed. How tenants used this space compared to how members of the colonial elite utilized the area would provide insights into how status differentiation is reflected in site design and layout.

#### Area IV

Based on concentrations of architectural debris recovered by Dent in the extreme west of the impact area, five one-meter-square test units were excavated. Additionally, 26 shovel test pits were excavated in the southern portion of Area IV to investigate prehistoric material present in one of the meter squares. Finally, an additional one-meter square was dug to test the implication of the shovel test pits (see Figure 15 and Figure 28).

Unit 1 was located in the northern portion of Area IV. The square was excavated in two natural horizons. First, 4-6 cm of humic loam were removed to reveal a dark brown loam mottled with strong brown clay. This brown loam topsoil was removed as a layer 3-7 cm thick throughout the square which exposed a strong brown clay subsoil.

#### Unit 1

layer 1  
humus

1 whiteware  
3 19th-century bottle glass

layer 2  
topsoil

1 19th-century bottle glass

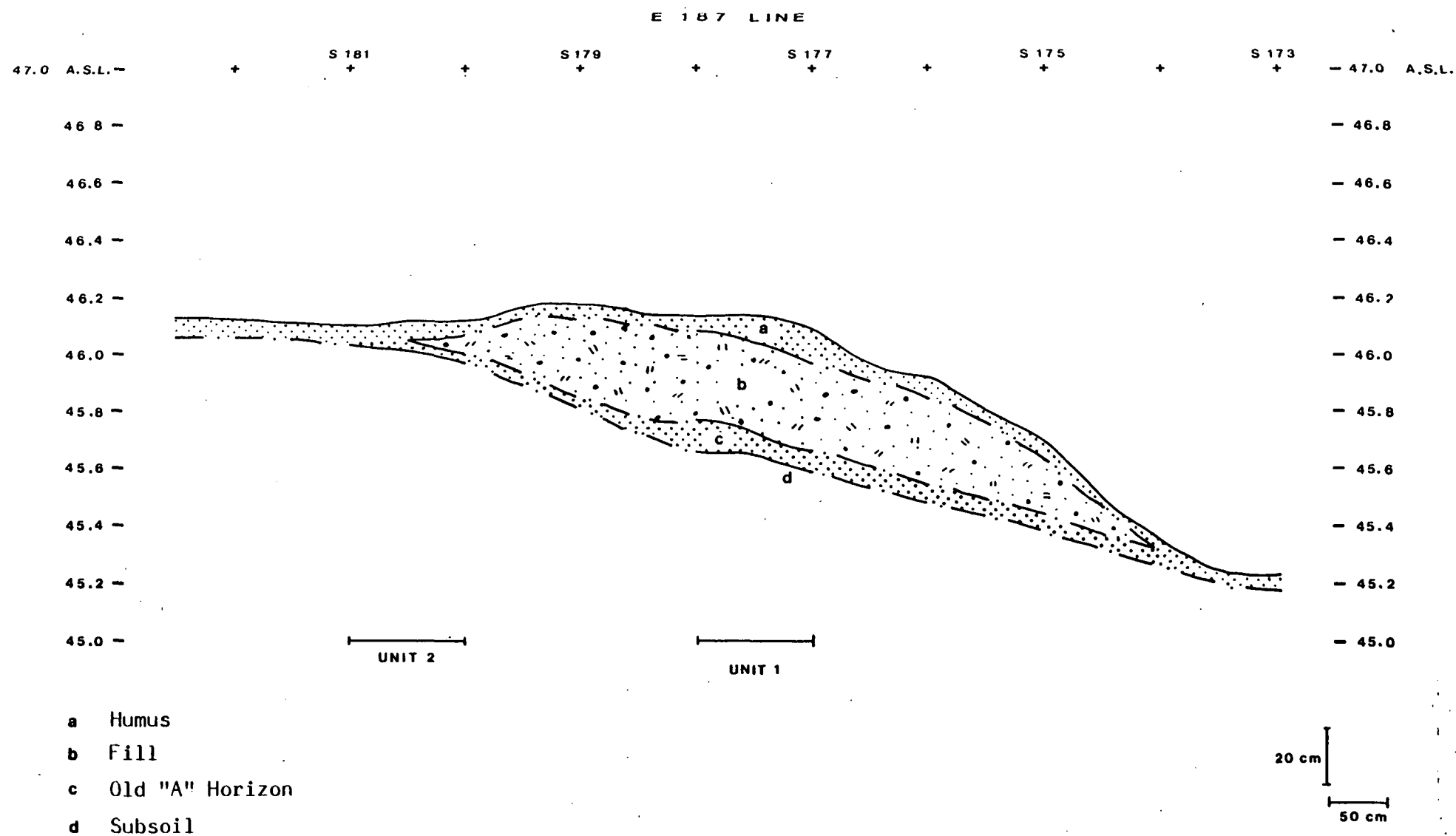


Figure 27. Area III, Conjectural Cross-Section

# Area IV

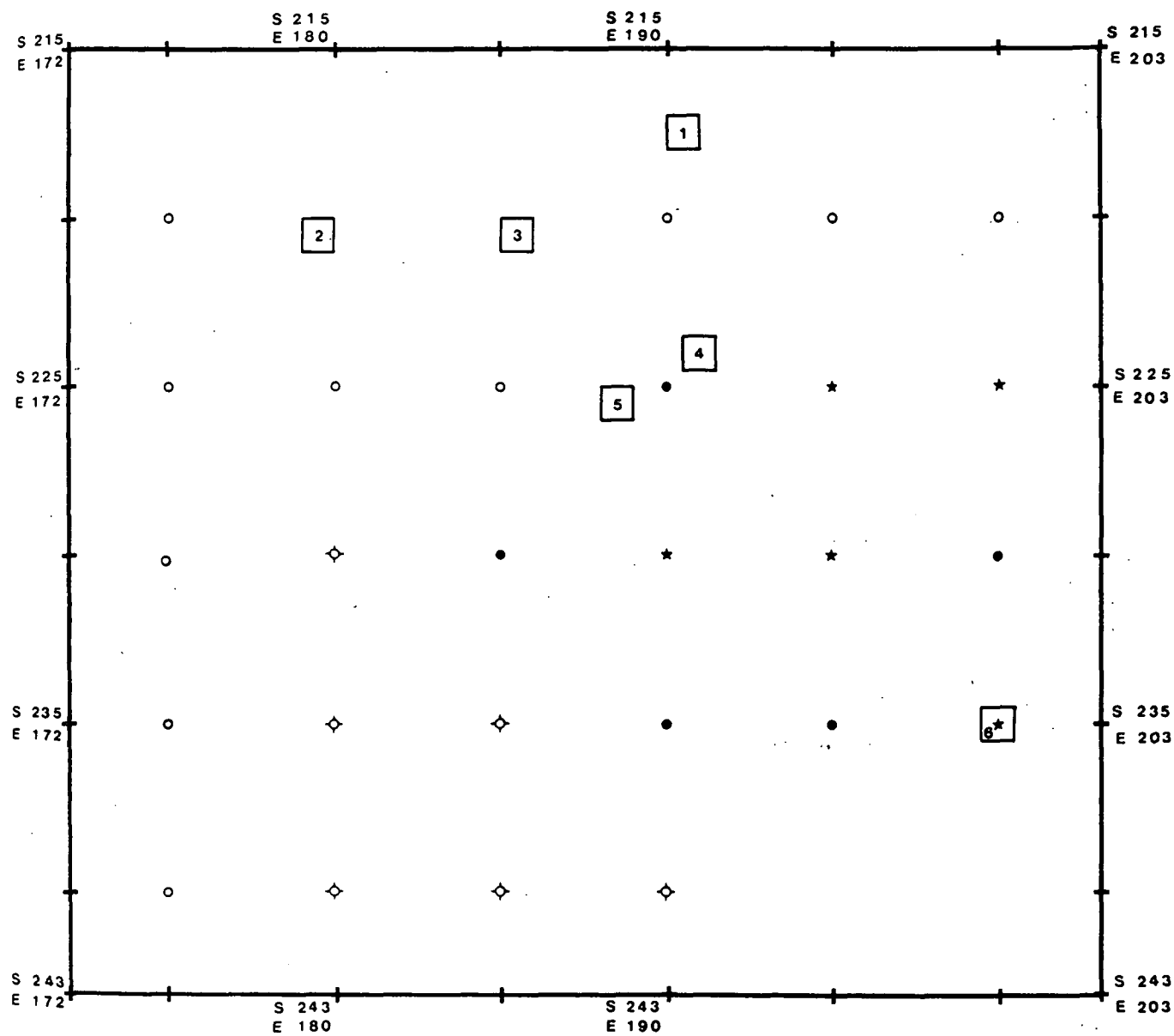


Figure 28. Location of Test Units, Area IV

This unit appears to contain natural soil horizons. The paucity of cultural material is indicative of a low activity area.

Unit 2 was the westernmost of the excavation units in this area. The unit was excavated in two natural strata. Five to eight centimeters of humic loam were removed exposing a strong brown clay horizon. Removal of roughly 5 cm of the strong brown clay indicated that it was the top of subsoil.

#### Unit 2

|                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| layer 1           | no temporally diagnostic material |
| humus and topsoil |                                   |

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| layer 2        | no temporally diagnostic material |
| top of subsoil |                                   |

This pit indicates that soils are quite shallow in this portion of Area IV and its nearness to the slope suggests considerable erosion of soils. Again, the lack of material is indicative of a low activity area.

Unit 3 was excavated in four distinct provenience units. Beneath 6-8 cm of humic loam, a dark brown silty loam was exposed. The stratum appeared to be darker in the northern half of the square. Two to three centimeters of this stratum were removed until the light-dark contrast noted above became more apparent. The darker soil in the northern half of the square was then removed as a layer 6-8 cm thick. This exposed a uniform strong brown clay loam. The southern half of the square was then excavated as a layer of roughly 3 cm in thickness which exposed the same uniform strong brown discovered in the northern half. The strong brown clay loam was determined to be subsoil.

#### Unit 3

|         |   |                           |
|---------|---|---------------------------|
| layer 1 | 1 | whiteware                 |
| humus   | 1 | 19th-century bottle glass |

|         |   |           |
|---------|---|-----------|
| layer 2 | 1 | whiteware |
| topsoil |   |           |

|                   |  |                           |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------|
| layer 3           |  | coal (probably post-1840) |
| bottom of topsoil |  |                           |

|                   |   |                           |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------|
| layer 4           | 1 | 19th-century bottle glass |
| bottom of topsoil |   |                           |

This square appears to represent a natural soil profile with greater root activity in the northern half of the square than in the southern half. The low density of cultural material again indicates that little activity occurred in this area.

Unit 4 was excavated in three distinct provenience units. After removal of 4-5 cm of humic loam a large area of dark brown loam was discerned covering most of the square. Several small lenses of various clays were observed. A layer roughly 4 cm thick was then removed to better define the dark brown

loam. The dark brown loam was found to cover most of the square and was surrounded on all but the eastern side by the lensed clay observed at the bottom of layer 1. The dark brown loam was excavated as feature 1. The feature was quite irregular with lenses and fingers extending into the matrical clay. The fill was primarily dark brown loam with brick and mortar rubble. In section, the feature is roughly saucer-shaped. The lensed, matrical clay appeared to be displaced subsoil. (Additional excavation [shovel test pits, below] indicate that the displaced subsoil was fill.)

#### Unit 4

|           |                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| layer 1   | no temporally diagnostic material |
| humus     |                                   |
| layer 2   | no temporally diagnostic material |
| topsoil   |                                   |
| Feature 1 | 1 whiteware                       |
| tree fall | 1 18th-century bottle glass       |

The irregular plan and saucer-shaped section suggest that feature 1 was a tree fall hole. When the tree fell, various underlying clay subsoils were pulled upwards by the roots. It then appears that a quantity of mortar and brick rubble was deposited in the hole and organic rich brown loam silted in. The artifacts from the feature indicate that the hole was filled in the mid-19th century.

Unit 5 was to be the southernmost of the tests in Area IV. The unit was excavated in five discrete layers. After removal of five centimeters of humic loam, a dark brown silty loam was encountered. This horizon was removed as a layer 4-5 cm thick. Removal of this layer exposed a dark yellowish brown silty loam which was more compact than the stratum above. Three to six centimeters of the more compact silty loam were removed to expose a lighter yellowish brown silty loam. Six centimeters of the light yellowish brown silty loam were removed. The stratum was sterile of cultural material and determined to be subsoil.

#### Unit 5

|                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| layer 1                   | no temporally diagnostic material |
| humus                     |                                   |
| layer 2                   | no temporally diagnostic material |
| topsoil                   |                                   |
| layer 3                   | 3 aboriginal Moyaone sherds       |
| bottom of topsoil         |                                   |
| layer 4                   | no material recovered             |
| topsoil-subsoil interface |                                   |
| layer 5                   | no material recovered             |
| subsoil                   |                                   |



The soil sequence in this unit is indicative of a natural soil horizon. The stratigraphy is as follows: Humus over "A1" over "A2" over interface of "A" and "B" over "B". The historic material is quite sparse indicating little activity in this area. The presence of the prehistoric ceramics suggests aboriginal activity in the area prior to the construction of Oxon Hill Manor. In order to determine the nature and extent of this activity, 26 shovel test pits were excavated (see Figure 28 for locations).

The results of the shovel test pitting were quite illuminating. The stratigraphy in this area is much more complex than indicated by Dent's testing of 1981. Sixteen of the pits encountered an obvious fill layer beneath the modern humus. The fill stratum varied from 10 cm to 40 cm in thickness. In some areas the fill overlay a buried "A" horizon while in other areas the fill rested directly on subsoil (Figures 29 and 30). This indicates that the soil disturbances included not only filling, but also cutting or grading. The fill stratum was quite variable. In some areas a yellowish brown silty loam had been deposited, while elsewhere deep-sourced clays were encountered. This suggests multiple small tips of fill from varying sources. The areas of the fill coincide with the artificial terrace between the manor foundation and the western terrace edge overlooking the Potomac observed in the pedestrian reconnaissance. The only temporally diagnostic item, recovered from the base of the fill, is an 18th-century salt-glazed stoneware basal sherd from a shovel test pit. This indicates that the fill to create the terrace was most likely deposited in the 18th century.

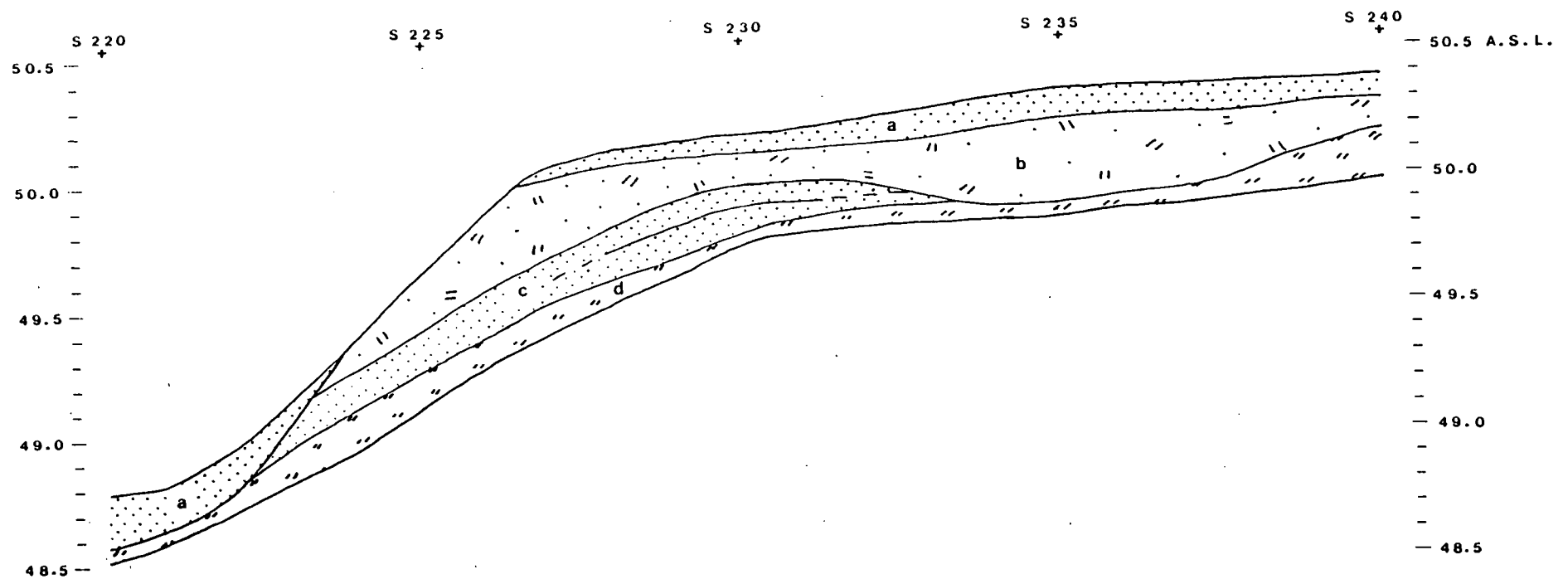
The shovel test pit located at S235 E200 indicated a concentrated deposit of brick approximately 10 cm thick resting on the buried "A" horizon and covered by a yellowish brown fill. In order to examine this stratum more thoroughly, a one-meter-square test unit was excavated at this location (Unit 6). Due to time constraints, the fill layer was removed as an unsifted stratum to expose the brick horizon. Twenty-five to thirty centimeters of fill were removed. The underlying brick horizon was found to be composed of small brick fragments and fine compact brick dust. Only one quartz flake was recovered from the brick dust horizon. The current interpretation is that the brick dust represents another tip of fill in the overall landscaping process.

Only one of the twenty-six shovel test pits (S230 E190) contained aboriginal pottery. This shovel test pit is located 5 meters south of the meter square which contained ceramics. Five sherds which mended into one sherd of Moyaone pottery were recovered from the A horizon buried beneath the 18th-century fill. In both the meter square and the shovel test pit scattered charcoal was present in the level with the pottery. While coal ash was quite common throughout the site, the charcoal was found only in the prehistoric locus.

In addition to the pottery, a small number of quartz flakes and broken quartz pebbles (fewer than 10) were recovered. These were strongly correlated with the presence of the buried "A" horizon in the shovel test pits: 4 of the 5 pits with the buried "A" horizon yielded aboriginal material (Figure 28). The suggestion is of low density remains, possibly from a single component.

While our initial testing of Area IV with meter squares suggested little activity in the historic period, the shovel testing proved this to be a fallacy. The placement of most of the meter squares (dictated by artifact

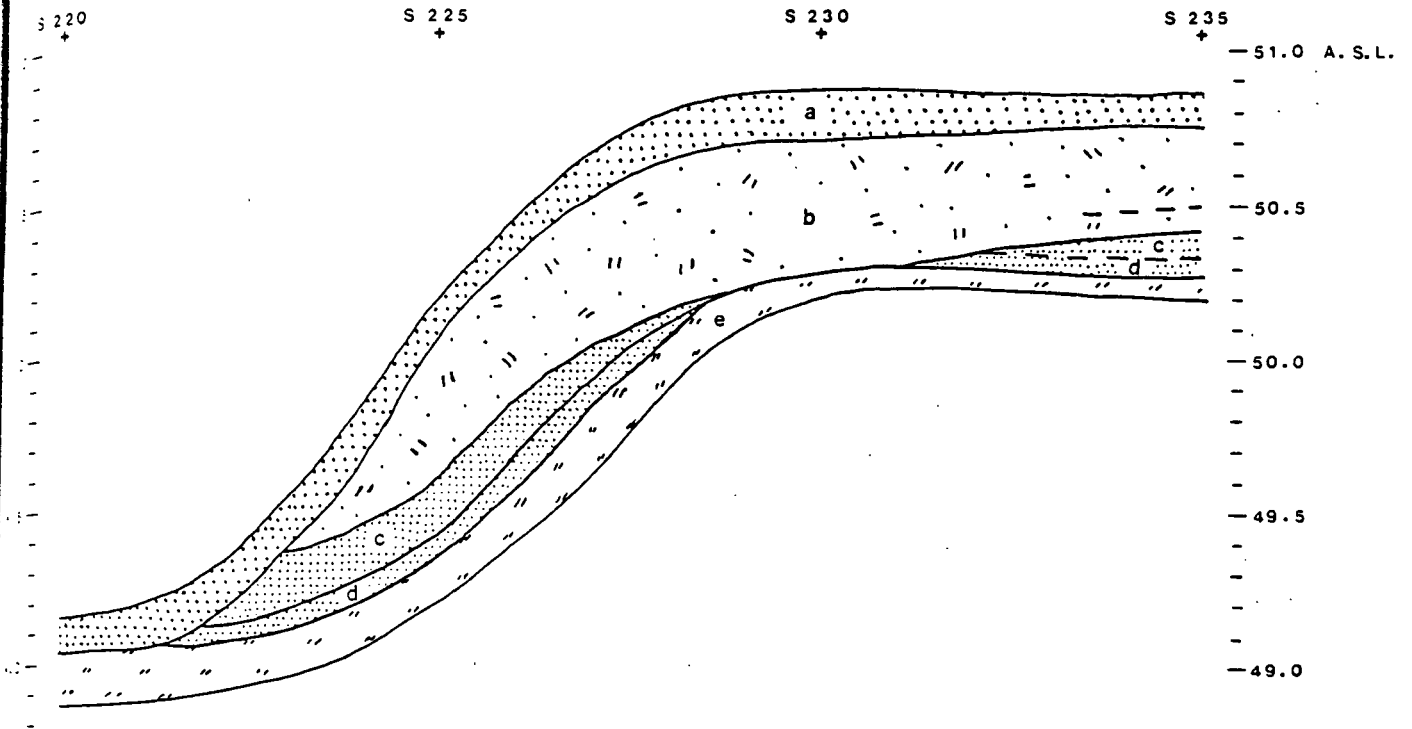
# E 190 LINE



- a Modern "A" Horizon
- b Fill
- c Buried "A" Horizon
- d Subsoil

Figure 29. Area IV, Conjectural Profile through Terrace 1190

# E 200 LINE



- a Modern "A" Horizon
- b Fill
- c Buried "A1" Horizon
- d Buried "A2" Horizon
- e Subsoil

Figure 30. Area IV, Conjectural Profile through Terrace E200

distributions) below the terrace, rather than upon it, failed to detect that the entire area south of the artificial terrace had witnessed massive filling sometime in the 18th century. In retrospect it appears that one of our meter squares (unit 4 above) was excavated only to the top of this fill layer. The filling was most likely undertaken to develop a formal garden. This filling covered the eighteenth-century landscape with a protective blanket, preserving the original grade not only from time but also previous researchers. The complexity of this yard area needs to be examined with intensive excavations to determine its use and modifications through time.

Specific questions which could be approached by excavations in Area IV chiefly concern the use of space within a Georgian landscape and how this use of space relates to the advertisement of one's status. The arrangement of space within a Georgian context would be suggestive of a very ordered, linear use of yard areas with symmetrical arrangements of plantings and paths. This formal garden arrangement would be an outstanding example of conspicuous consumption by the slave-holding oligarchy of the Chesapeake Tidewater. Recovery of the archeological evidence of the use of this space could show how the yards symbolized the upper class oligarchy and how change in yard use through time relates to changes in both social and economic status.

#### Area V

Area V was investigated to examine a large hole and associated mound of fill discovered by Dent (1983:72) in 1981 (see Figure 15 and Figure 31).

The hole is roughly four meters in diameter, two meters deep, and generally circular to subrectangular in shape. The mound surrounding the hole is roughly 12 to 13 meters in diameter and nearly a half-meter above the adjacent ground level.

Two shovel test pits were excavated to test the hypothesis that the mound surrounding the hole resulted from deposition of the spoil of the hole excavation. These pits were immediately north and west of the edges of the hole (Figure 31).

Both pits indicate a similar stratigraphic sequence (Figure 32). In the northern pit, beneath 14 cm of very well-developed gravelly humus a mixed, lensed horizon of displaced and mixed clay and gley was encountered. After removal of 13 cm of the mixed clay and gley fill a buried "A" horizon was discovered. Several large stones at the bottom of the fill horizon made it impossible to continue excavation into the buried "A". The only artifact recovered from the overlying fill horizon was a single wrought nail.

The western pit demonstrated a similar sequence. Beneath 8 cm of humus the same mixed clay and gley horizon of fill was discovered. This stratum was removed as a layer 22 cm thick. This stratum was in turn followed by the buried "A" horizon. The "A" was removed as a layer 12 cm thick and exposed a light yellowish brown clay subsoil. The fill and humic layers contained no artifacts. The buried "A" horizon contained numerous 18th-century bottle glass fragments.

Area V

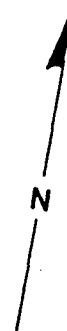
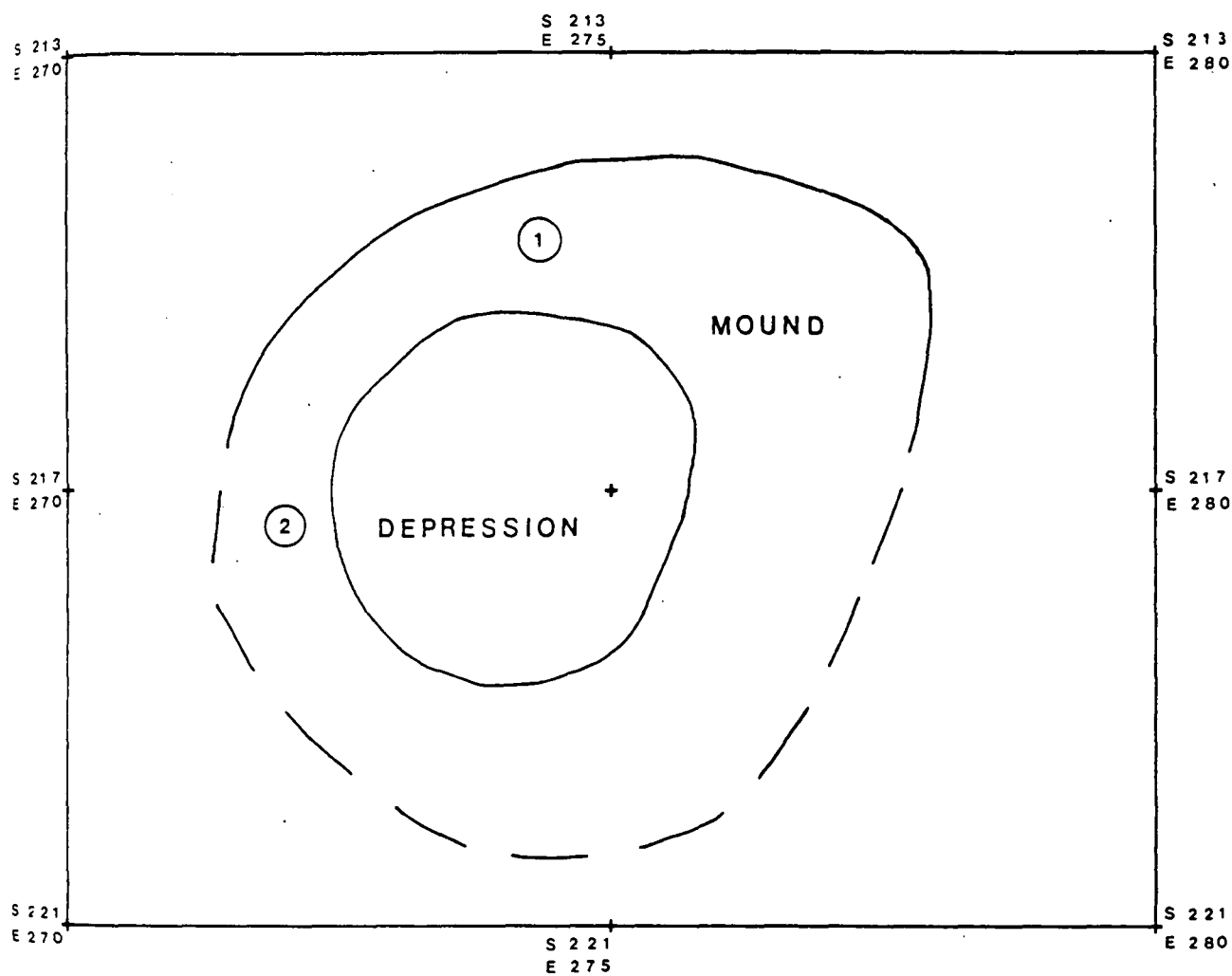


Figure 31. Location of Test Units, Area V

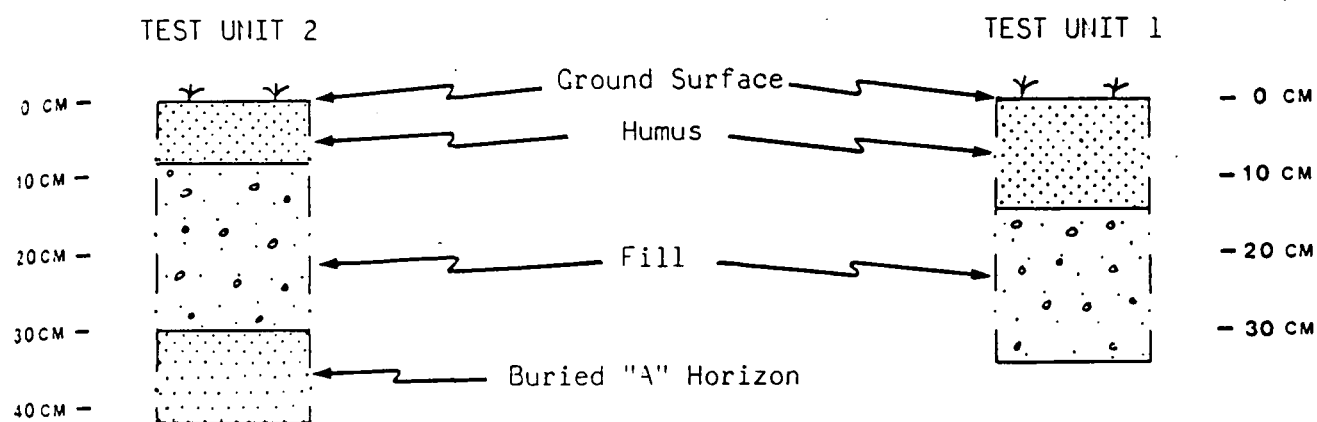


Figure 32. Area V, Profile of Test Units

The current interpretation of the events in this area indicate the excavation of a large hole with the spoil deposited around the hole. It seems likely that the feature represents either an ice house or perhaps a large root cellar. The artifacts from the buried "A" suggest that the construction may have occurred in the late 18th or early 19th century, given the absence of 19th-century material from the buried "A". The hole would have been doubtlessly covered with some sort of roof. Only additional excavation can delineate the type of structure or its function.

This feature represents a significant resource as a part of the question of site arrangement and the use of space surrounding a Georgian "great house". Specifically, dating the structure associated with this feature would add to our understanding of the management of space at this specific site. If the feature is from the 18th century it may be indicative of changes in the use of space within the context of the Georgian plan. If this feature dates to the early 19th century, it would provide concrete information on modification of an initial Georgian plan by later occupants for functional or aesthetic purposes. As an element of the overall site, the feature could help us better understand the developmental history of the landscape as it relates to changes after the "great house" is no longer the principal seat of members of the slave-holding oligarchy.

#### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Investigations at the Oxon Hill Manor site revealed five areas of significant archeological remains within the proposed highway impact zone (Figure 33).

Area I, adjacent to the house foundation, was found to contain a well, evidence of yard fences, and apparent landscape features. Based on the small portion of the area sampled (less than 4%) and historic documentation, numerous other significant features are doubtlessly present within this area. Additional investigation of this high activity area is needed.

Area II represents a large zone of artifact deposition down the slope north of the manor house. The artifacts appear to concentrate 40 meters from the foundation in an area roughly 50 meters by 20 meters. This slope deposit appears to represent a principal area of deposition for cultural material emanating from the manor house during both the 18th and 19th centuries. As such, it offers us a document of social status and material wealth of the occupants. A systematic sample from this area should be obtained for such further analysis as to address questions of status and change through time as Oxon Hill Manor moves from being the principal seat of a wealthy, influential family to a tenant, rental property. Additionally, the 1863 topographic survey indicates a structure near this area which must be investigated.

Area III contains a large, rectangular, flat-topped mound of fill. The mound appears to have been constructed to create a level area on which to build a structure in the middle of the 19th century. Additional excavations through and around the mound are needed to establish the purpose of the mound, the function of any structure associated with it, and construction date.

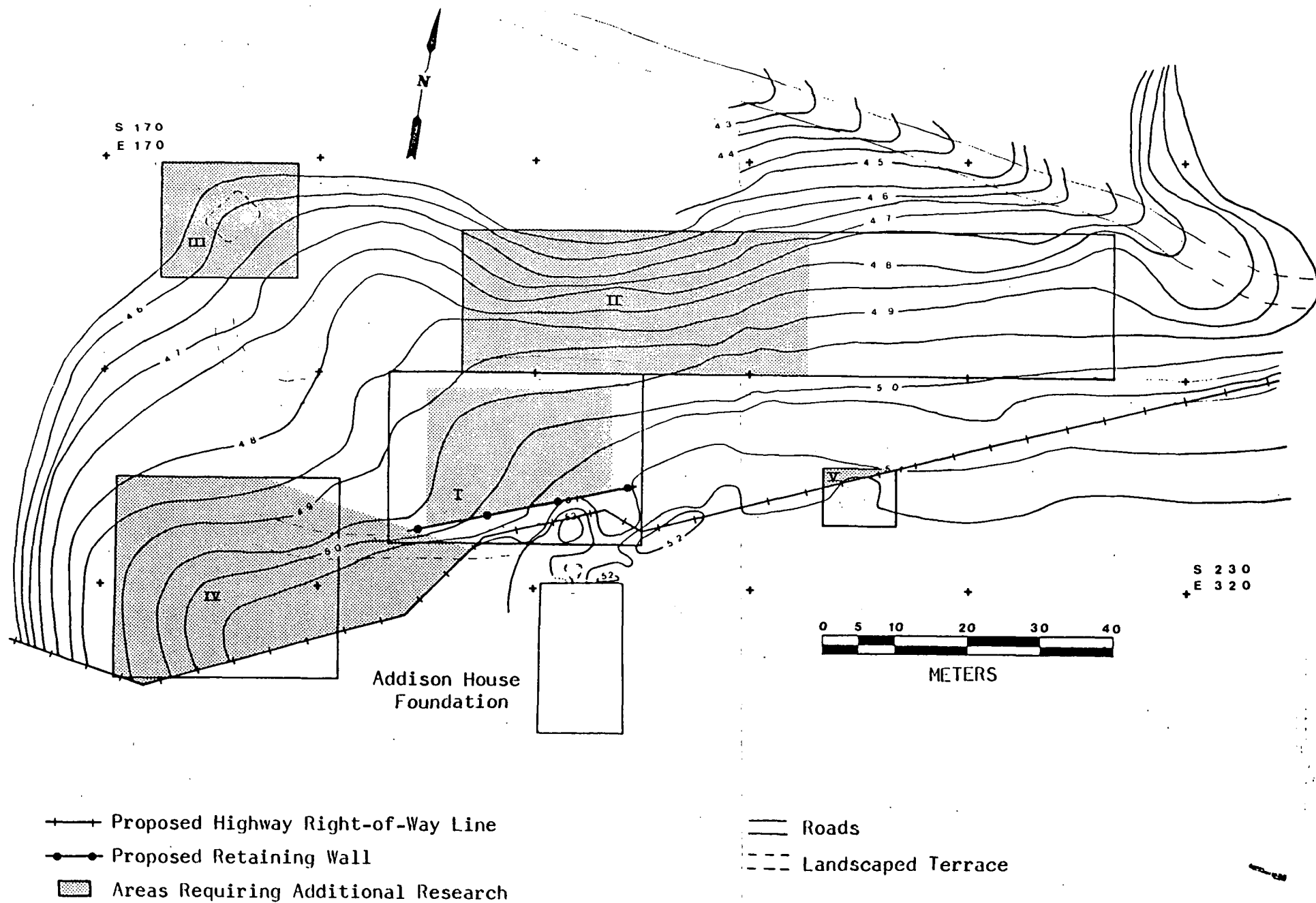


Figure 33. Areas Requiring Additional Research



Area IV was found to contain a greatly modified landscape resulting from deposition of large quantities of fill in the 18th century to create a formal garden. The fill preserved the pre-garden landscape from later modification. In addition to the historic period activities, evidence for a prehistoric occupation on the western terrace edge was also found. While sparse, the prehistoric material is considered potentially significant as it has been extraordinarily well-preserved in a fill-capped, unplowed soil. Moyaone pottery (Stephenson and Ferguson 1963:120-125) occurs within a fairly restricted geographical range encompassing the estuarine portion of the Potomac below the fall line (cf. Egloff and Potter 1982; Wanser 1982; Steponaitis 1980; McNett and Gardner 1974), and its occurrence in an upland setting is unusual. At the White Oak Point site (44WM119) Moyaone ware was carbon-dated to A.D. 1310-1460 (Waselkov 1982:258). The aboriginal remains are of potentially high significance if they represent a single Moyaone occupation or if features are preserved. Intensive excavation is recommended for Area IV to document the historic landscape changes and the aboriginal occupation.

Area V encompasses a large hole and associated mound which may represent an ice house or a root cellar. Testing suggests that the mound was constructed in the early 19th century and that the fill was derived from the deep depression at its center. Features associated with a structure covering the hole are probably preserved within the fill layer and will require additional excavation to ascertain the presence of architectural detail.

In sum, if avoidance is not possible, all of the areas examined will require additional excavation to mitigate the impact of the proposed highway construction on the Oxon Hill Manor site. Extensive excavation of all but Area II is recommended due to the proven presence of subsurface cultural features. Intensive sampling of Area II is needed to facilitate status and wealth analysis. Specifics on the type and magnitude of investigations required to mitigate the proposed impact are provided below.

The excellent integrity of the site has been demonstrated through the current Phase II investigations. The site appears to have undergone minimal, if any, post-occupational modification. All areas tested were unplowed, indicating that the large-scale landscape modifications of the manor's formal space have been preserved, and these in turn have preserved portions of the original unmodified terrace underneath. In addition, archeological features detailing the construction, modification, and demolition of outbuildings throughout the entire range of occupation of the main house exist within the proposed right-of-way. Outbuildings which have been suggested by historic research include slave quarters, kitchen quarter, stables, and an overseer's house. Through archeological testing, an ice house or root cellar, and a structure of unknown function have been indicated. Because of the excellent integrity, other smaller features which provide detail on manor life such as well(s), trash deposition areas, and post hole/mold complexes indicating fence lines are also preserved. In Area I, 9 of 13 one-meter squares excavated revealed features. Based on this ratio, 300 square meters of the portion of Area I proposed for mitigation may uncover features related to the use of space immediately adjacent to the great house. The Oxon Hill Manor site might easily be the best-preserved site of its kind in the Potomac estuarine region.

## NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY

The Oxon Hill Manor site is highly significant not only because of its exceptional integrity but also because of its association with the highest stratum of Maryland's colonial elite. The Addison family were true power elites on the colonial Maryland scene. Their conspicuous consumption of wealth, indicated by the historic record and confirmed by the magnitude of the structure at Oxon Hill, speak of their economic status. The house at Oxon Hill Manor was comparable to the very finest houses being built in the Chesapeake region. It compares favorably with King Carter's Coratoman and Byrd's Westover in Virginia. While current highway development plans will not affect the foundations of the main house, other inseparable parts of the site will be negatively affected and warrant full preservation or documentation.

Given the site's good integrity, high local and regional significance, and the prominence of the Addison family as representatives of the colonial elite, Oxon Hill Manor is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Extreme care must be taken to preserve this irreplaceable resource. Unavoidable impact of any of the five culturally sensitive areas defined above must be mitigated by intensive archeological and historic research. Oxon Hill Manor offers a unique look at people who greatly affected the historical development of both Prince Georges County and the state of Maryland.

The specific research questions outlined above, use of space within a Georgian landscape, status consumption of conspicuous items by a social elite, and change in consumption and land use as the status of the site's occupants changes, can be most effectively addressed by cultural resources present at the Oxon Hill Manor site. Oxon Hill is a unique opportunity to study the Prince Georges County slave-holding oligarchy on a site which has suffered little impact since its abandonment. While a preservation plan for the state of Maryland has yet to be produced, an outline for such a plan does exist. This outline includes several themes for study within the historic period which could be directly addressed by research at Oxon Hill Manor. Specifically the theme of "Agriculture" could be approached using Oxon Hill Manor as a prime example of a successful tobacco plantation. The theme of "Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning" would be explicated by the proposed work at Oxon Hill to document the landscape and integrate the "great house" into this landscape as emblematic structures of a Georgian worldview. Oxon Hill Manor offers us the rare opportunity to study the highest elements of colonial Maryland's most powerful social class on a site with outstanding integrity.

## SUGGESTED STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATION AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Given the density of cultural deposits present at the Oxon Hill Manor site, a strategy of total avoidance would be the best policy. If this is not practical, extensive data recovery will be required to mitigate the impact of construction.

First, fencing needs to be erected along the right-of-way line to protect areas beyond the primary impact zone from the secondary impacts of construction. Fencing is suggested for the entire southern limit of work within the area addressed by this report.

Of the five sensitive areas delineated in this study, complete manual excavation is suggested only for Area I. The proven presence of features, including a filled well, requires complete excavation between the southern project limits and the current access road (see Figure 33). This area encompasses roughly 400 square meters.

Each of the features uncovered in Area I represents a significant source of information concerning the Oxon Hill Manor site. The well fill has a high potential for containing unusually well preserved remains. Organic items, including floral and faunal remains which ordinarily decay can be preserved in the anaerobic environment of water-logged well fill (Noel Hume 1973). This could provide unique data on diet and potentially status variability in diet (Miller 1984). The location and orientation of planting ditches and fence posts will provide information on how the yards adjacent to the house were divided and utilized. Temporal differences in yard divisions based on artifact and feature analysis can document the changing use of yard space. Deetz (1977) and Glassie (1976) have pointed out that the shift to Georgian architecture and site design are parts of a larger change in world view with concomitant physical manifestations in yard arrangement and house form and plan. This change is representative of a greater sense of order and the individual and relates to the florescence of Renaissance ideas in England (Deetz 1977:111, 114, 115, and 117). The Addisons and similar elites were the popularizers of this new world view. Hence, their use of space should mirror this mindset. How the Addisons divided and decorated their yards provides unique insights into these individuals as "Georgian" gentry and conspicuous consumers advertising their wealth and status within the tobacco-based oligarchy of Tidewater Maryland.

Area II, the zone of slope trash deposits, can be adequately investigated with systematic testing by one-meter squares to recover representative samples of the cultural material present. A 5% sample should yield sufficient material for advanced artifact analyses addressing status and change through time. This sample quotient would require roughly 40 one-meter squares. An additional five one-meter squares should be allowed to address any soil anomalies or unexpected features. Finally, pedological examination of a mechanically-excavated trench extending north-south through the deposits would provide information on the relationships among the various strata and help identify areas of slope wash and erosion.

Additional tests in the southern and southeastern extremes of Area II need to be undertaken to examine the structures indicated on the 1863 topographic survey (Figure 8, above). Date and function of these structures would help us better appreciate the development of the site plan of Oxon Hill Manor.

The artifact deposits represented in Area II present us with a rare chance to compare the assemblages of a wealthy slave-holding oligarchy with that of later tenants. Specific questions of status and conspicuous consumption can be approached through careful analyses of these materials. As demonstrated by Miller (1980) and Miller and Stone (1970), ceramics are particularly useful in ascertaining the status of site occupants. Hence, the slope deposits in Area II are a significant resource relating to important

research questions at Oxon Hill. They would provide us with unique information about the status of the site and how this status, as reflected in the artifactual record, changes through time.

Area III should be approached by a combination of mechanical and manual excavation. First, two mechanically-excavated trenches at right angles through the mound would provide continuous profiles of the fill. Then 25 one-meter squares excavated in and adjacent to the mound would supply artifact samples to date the mound and perhaps uncover structural features to delineate the building which once stood there. Should structural features be encountered, ten additional one-meter squares would be needed to adequately investigate the building and possible associated features.

Excavation of Area III would allow us to firmly date the feature and perhaps describe a function for the structure once located there. Specific questions of yard use and site layout and how these changed through time could be addressed. In his dissertation, Stone (1983) has demonstrated that the arrangement of structures and yard areas is a significant artifact which reflects both the occupants' functional needs and their aesthetics. Miller (1983) has shown that physical segmentation of the environment can be detected through artifact patterns. How tenants used this space compared to how members of the colonial elite utilized the area would provide insights into how status differentiation is reflected in site design and layout.

Area IV, with its complex layers of fill, will require a combined strategy of mechanical and manual excavation. First, mechanically-excavated trenches should be dug every 10 meters on a north-south axis. Following recordation of these profiles, the east-west trenches should be excavated on 10-meter intervals. Two one-meter squares should then be excavated in each of the resultant 100-meter-square blocks to obtain controlled artifact samples from the various fill layers encountered. An additional 15 one-meter squares should be reserved to address any other questions raised. Following this sampling strategy (which would result in a 2% systematic sample), the current humus would be mechanically removed from the entire area to expose any features intrusive through the fill. After excavation of these features, each subsequent fill layer would be mechanically removed to expose features and the underlying strata. Where present, the buried "A" horizon would then be manually excavated in one-meter-square control blocks to expose the underlying subsoil and obtain artifact samples of both historic and prehistoric activity at the site. Finally, all features intrusive into the subsoil would be excavated to identify activities in this area.

Questions which could be approached by excavations in Area IV chiefly concern the use of space within a Georgian landscape, specifically that of formal gardens and how this use of space relates to the advertisement of one's status. Audrey Noel Hume in her study "Archaeology and the Colonial Gardener" (1974) points out the variety of data which can be obtained through garden archeology. Fences, walks, and plantings can all be explored. In his work in Annapolis at the Paca House, South (1967) demonstrated how archeology can be used to recreate the historic environment of gardens. The arrangement of space within a Georgian context would be suggestive of a very ordered, linear use of yard areas with symmetrical arrangements of plantings and paths. This formal garden arrangement would be a signal feat of conspicuous consumption by the power elite of the Chesapeake and Tidewater. As such it would serve as a

symbol of the lifestyle to be emulated by the lower social classes. Retrieval of the archeological evidence of the use of this space could approach how the yards symbolized the upper class oligarchy and how change in yard use through time relates to changes in both social and economic status.

Area V, the depression possibly representing an ice house or root cellar, requires manual excavation of ten one-meter squares in the portion to be disturbed by the proposed highway construction. Construction dates, function, and structural features should be sought. The presence of structural features would require the excavation of up to five additional one-meter squares.

Area V represents a significant resource as a part of the question of site arrangement and the use of space surrounding a Georgian "great house". Specifically, dating the structure associated with this feature would add to our understanding of the use of space at this specific site. If 18th century in date, it may be indicative of evolution within a Georgian plan, while if this feature dates to the early 19th century, it would provide information on modification of a Georgian plan by later occupants. As an element of the overall site, the feature could help us better understand the developmental history of the landscape as it relates to changes after the great house is no longer the residence of members of the slave-holding oligarchy.

In sum, the five areas delineated above all contain significant cultural remains. The combined approach of mechanical and manual excavation is needed to address these resources before they are subjected to impact by highway construction. This intensive strategy would mitigate the adverse impact of the proposed highway construction and provide meaningful insights into the lives of the occupants of this unique site.

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## APPENDIX I

### THE ADDISONS OF OXON HILL MANOR

Oxon Hill Manor was built on land acquired in 1687 by John Addison. The tract, known as "St. Elizabeth's", was obtained by Addison from John Charman who had patented, but apparently had not occupied, the parcel in 1662. Addison eventually acquired joining parcels which resulted in an estate of nearly 6,500 acres.

John Addison came to Maryland in 1674 (Carr and Jordan 1974:222). Part of a prominent English family (one brother was chaplain to Charles II), Addison quickly gained political influence. In 1689-92 he was a member of the Associators' Convention which overthrew the proprietary government. Under the royal governors he served as Justice of the Peace, Privy Councillor, and Colonel of the Militia. John Addison died in either 1705 or 1706. At his death he owned 6,478.5 acres and had personal property valued at £1,840:0:1 1/2. The entire estate descended to his only son and heir Thomas Addison (preceding extracted from Carr and Jordan 1974:232-234).

Thomas Addison was born in 1679 and died in 1727. Like his father he was Colonel of the Militia and a member of the Privy Council (Bowie 1947:32). Thomas Addison appears to have built the manor house at Oxon Hill. Thomas Addison "married well", that is, he married the daughters of prominent men. The first of these was Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Tucker, while the second was Eleanor, daughter of Colonel William Smith of Calvert County (Bowie 1947:32). At his death in 1727, Thomas Addison's personal estate was valued at £3656:11:02 (Prerogative Court, Inventories, 12:295-313). His eldest son John Addison inherited the bulk of his properties including Oxon Hill Manor.

John Addison (1713-1764) maintained the family position, serving as a Burgess from Prince Georges County and as a Colonel in the Militia (Bowie 1947:33). John Addison married Susanah Wilkinson while his brother, the Rev. Henry Addison, married Rachel, daughter of Daniel Dulany the Younger. John Addison willed his estate to his eldest son Thomas Addison.

Thomas Addison (17 ?-1774) continued the family tradition by marrying Rebecca Dulany, eldest daughter of Walter Dulany (Land 1968:27, 40). After his death, his widow married Thomas Hawkins Hanson, nephew of John Hanson (Bowie 1947:39). The bulk of Thomas Addison's estate, including Oxon Hill Manor, was inherited by Walter Dulany Addison, his eldest son.

The Reverend Walter Dulany Addison (1769-1848) was the last Addison to own Oxon Hill Manor (Murray 1895:158). The Rev. Addison was rector of Broad Creek (St. John's Parish) and later St. John's Church in Georgetown (Anon. 1896:52). Addison was one of the five clergymen who officiated at the funeral of George Washington in 1799. In 1810 he sold Oxon Hill Manor to Zachariah Berry (J.R.M. 13:623, 627, 654). This ended the association of the Addison family with Oxon Hill Manor with the exception of the family cemetery which was held by the Addison family until the early 20th century.

## APPENDIX II

### AREA II

On the northern side of the current access road to the site, a large slope area was investigated. Ten one-meter-square units were dug based on the concentration of 18<sup>th</sup>-century material indicated by the distributional analysis (see above, Figures 15 and 23). Each unit is discussed below. Only chronologically diagnostic artifacts are enumerated; the remainder are available for study.

Test unit 1 was excavated in four discrete horizons. Layer 1 was removed to a depth of 3-6 cm below surface. This stratum was a root-filled humus layer. Beneath layer 1 was a horizon of dark brown clayey loam. This topsoil layer was removed to a depth of 2-5 cm and exposed layer 3, a reddish brown gravelly clay with a dark brown irregular intrusion. Upon excavation the intrusion proved to be a root disturbance. Finally, ten centimeters of layer 3 were removed. Beneath this stratum was a sterile, gravelly, reddish brown clay subsoil.

#### Unit 1

|                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| layer 1                               | 1 Chinese porcelain |
| humus                                 | 1 whiteware         |
| layer 2                               | 1 pearlware         |
| topsoil and slope wash                | 1 whiteware         |
| layer 3                               | 1 pearlware         |
| possible buried highly eroded topsoil | 6 whiteware         |

The interpretation of these strata is based on the process of slope wash burying domestic deposition. It would appear that this burial occurred mostly after site abandonment. The presence of larger numbers of the most recent ceramic type (whiteware) in the deepest horizon indicate that the soils above (containing the oldest ceramic type) probably moved down slope burying the more recent debris.

Test unit 2, like unit 1, was excavated in three distinct horizons. Layer 1 was a dark brown humus, 3 to 5 cm thick, which when removed exposed a greyish brown very clayey loam. Intrusive into this horizon was an irregular soil disturbance along the eastern edge of the excavation. This proved to be a root disturbance. After excavation of the root disturbance the greyish brown clay loam strata was removed to a depth of 6-10 cm below surface exposing a yellowish brown clayey loam. This stratum was roughly 6 cm in thickness. Beneath this horizon was a sterile, strong brown clay layer.

## Unit 2

layer 1  
humus

1 whiteware

layer 2  
topsoil

1 pearlware  
2 18th-century bottle glass

layer 3  
bottom of topsoil

2 18th-century bottle glass

This sequence of strata is essentially a natural soil horizon with accretional deposition of cultural material. The oldest material is in the deepest horizons while the most recent is nearest the top as one would expect if deposition continued through time.

Test unit 3 was excavated in five distinct provenience units. After the removal of 3-6 cm of modern humic development a brown, clayey, loam topsoil was encountered. Three to 4 cm of this stratum were removed to expose an irregular, but distinct soil feature on the eastern edge of the square. The feature, filled with brown loam, was removed to a depth of 6 cm. The bottom was quite irregular and appears to be the result of root action. The soil surrounding the feature was then removed to a depth of 6 cm. This horizon was a clayey brown loam similar to the topsoil above. Finally, beneath this stratum, 1 cm of strong brown clayey loam was removed. This exposed undisturbed subsoil.

## Unit 3

layer 1  
humus

1 tin-glazed earthenware  
1 English brown stoneware  
1 creamware  
1 19th-century stoneware  
1 18th-century bottle glass  
2 19th-century bottle glass

layer 2  
topsoil

2 creamware  
2 pearlware  
1 whiteware  
3 18th-century bottle glass  
3 19th-century bottle glass

feature 1  
root disturbance

1 18th-century Chinese porcelain  
2 creamware  
2 18th-century bottle glass  
2 19th-century bottle glass

layer 3  
bottom of topsoil

3 whiteware  
1 18th-century bottle glass

layer 4  
top of subsoil

1 white clay pipestem

This unit essentially represents a natural soil horizon. The cultural material is rather mixed from top to bottom, perhaps the result of root action. The only soil feature uncovered appears to have been a root disturbance.

Test unit 4 was excavated in four natural strata. First, a 4-6 cm layer of humic material was removed to expose a light brown loam horizon. The brown loam stratum was 7-10 cm thick and gave way to a strong brown silty clay loam horizon. This stratum (4-9 cm thick) was removed to expose a dark yellowish brown clay which contained considerable gravel and small cobbles. The cobbles appeared to be more concentrated on the northern portion of the square.

#### Unit 4

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| layer 1<br>humus                    | 1 yellow ware   |
| layer 2<br>topsoil                  | 1 white salt-glazed stoneware<br>1 creamware<br>1 18th-century bottle glass                           |
| layer 3<br>bottom of topsoil        | 1 tin-glazed earthenware<br>1 pearlware<br>4 18th-century bottle glass<br>1 19th-century bottle glass |
| layer 4<br>disturbed top of subsoil | 1 Rhenish stoneware<br>1 creamware<br>1 yellow ware<br>4 18th-century bottle glass                    |

This sequence of strata is essentially a natural soil horizon with some apparent downward mixing. The deposition is probably accretional with root and rodent activity causing the admixture of cultural material.

Test unit 5 was excavated in four natural strata. Initially, 4-6 cm of humus were removed throughout the square exposing a medium brown gritty loam with gravel. This layer was removed to a depth of 14-16 cm below surface to expose a layer of strong brown gravelly clay. This horizon (3-5 cm thick) was removed to expose an even more gravelly strong brown clay. The southern half of the square was then excavated an additional 5 cm to test the gravelly clay for the presence of cultural material. No artifacts were discovered in the clay.

#### Unit 5

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| layer 1<br>humus | 1 tin-glazed earthenware<br>1 Chinese porcelain<br>5 creamware<br>3 whiteware |
|------------------|---|

|                   |    |                             |
|-------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| layer 2           | 2  | tin-glazed earthenware      |
| topsoil           | 2  | Chinese porcelain           |
|                   | 9  | creamware                   |
|                   | 15 | pearlware                   |
|                   | 14 | whiteware                   |
|                   | 1  | 19th-century grey stoneware |
| layer 3           | 1  | white salt-glazed stoneware |
| bottom of topsoil | 2  | creamware                   |
|                   | 2  | pearlware                   |
|                   | 2  | whiteware                   |
|                   | 3  | 18th-century bottle glass   |
| layer 4           |    | no material                 |
| subsoil           |    |                             |

The sequence is again that of a natural soil horizon with some admixture of cultural material. Whiteware is present from top to bottom but is most frequent in layer 2. This may be indicative of accretional deposition, possibly with some slope wash redepositing older material from up the hill.

Test unit 6 was excavated in four natural horizons. First, 3-5 cm of humus were removed exposing medium brown silty loam. This stratum (2-3 cm thick) gave way to a medium brown gravelly loam. The gravelly loam level was 5-7 cm in thickness. Beneath the gravelly loam was a layer of 2-3 cm of very gravelly, strong brown gritty clay which when removed exposed sterile, gravelly clay subsoil.

#### Unit 6

|                   |    |                             |
|-------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| layer 1           | 6  | 19th-century bottle glass   |
| humus             |    |                             |
| layer 2           | 1  | tin-glazed earthenware      |
| topsoil           | 5  | creamware                   |
|                   | 7  | pearlware                   |
|                   | 5  | whiteware                   |
|                   | 12 | 18th-century bottle glass   |
|                   | 5  | 19th-century bottle glass   |
| layer 3           | 1  | white salt-glazed stoneware |
| bottom of topsoil | 2  | tin-glazed earthenware      |
|                   | 1  | porcelain                   |
|                   | 16 | creamware                   |
|                   | 3  | Staffordshire slip          |
|                   | 2  | Buckley earthenware         |
|                   | 19 | pearlware                   |
|                   | 8  | whiteware                   |
|                   | 27 | 18th-century bottle glass   |
|                   | 8  | 19th-century bottle glass   |

|                          |   |                           |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| layer 4                  | 1 | creamware                 |
| disturbed top of subsoil | 2 | pearlware                 |
|                          | 1 | semi-porcelain            |
|                          | 1 | 18th-century bottle glass |

The sequence of strata again depicts a natural soil horizon with apparent accretional deposition. As in the other cases just discussed, some admixture of early and late material occurs.

Test unit 7 was excavated in four natural strata. After the removal of 4-6 cm of humus, a gravelly, yellowish brown loam with some cobbles and brick fragments was observed. This stratum (5-6 cm thick) in turn was followed by an orange-brown clay loam with occasional brick fragments and considerable root disturbance. The root disturbances were removed to avoid contamination of lower strata. After removal of 4-7 cm of the orange-brown clay a similarly colored, but more gravelly, horizon was uncovered. Five centimeters of this stratum were removed with only one nail recovered.

#### Unit 7

|                   |    |                                    |
|-------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| layer 1           | 1  | dipped white salt-glazed stoneware |
| humus             | 2  | tin-glazed earthenware             |
|                   | 1  | Chinese porcelain                  |
|                   | 1  | creamware                          |
|                   | 3  | pearlware                          |
|                   | 4  | whiteware                          |
|                   | 1  | 19th-century grey stoneware        |
|                   | 2  | 18th-century bottle glass          |
|                   | 3  | 19th-century bottle glass          |
| layer 2           | 4  | tin-glazed earthenware             |
| topsoil           | 1  | Chinese porcelain                  |
|                   | 2  | Staffordshire slipwares            |
|                   | 15 | pearlware                          |
|                   | 11 | whiteware                          |
|                   | 16 | 18th-century bottle glass          |
|                   | 5  | 19th-century bottle glass          |
| layer 3           | 1  | tin-glazed earthenware             |
| bottom of topsoil | 7  | pearlware                          |
|                   | 6  | whiteware                          |
|                   | 1  | 18th-century bottle glass          |
|                   | 2  | 20th-century bottle glass          |
| layer 4           |    | no temporally diagnostic           |
| top of subsoil    |    | artifacts                          |

The stratigraphic sequence in this unit appears to again represent a natural soil horizon. The relative frequency of 19th-century material throughout the sequence is indicative of some sort of admixture, possibly rodents or roots.

Test unit 8 was excavated in four natural strata. After removing 3-5 cm of humus, a layer of brown sandy loam was encountered. This stratum (4-6 cm thick) gave way to a gravelly layer of brown sandy clay loam. After removing 7-9 cm of the sandy clay loam, a gravelly orange clay was encountered. This lower clay was removed to a thickness of 9-12 cm exposing a strong brown gravelly clay. Two centimeters of this gravelly clay were removed with no artifacts recovered.

#### Unit 8

|                        |    |                             |
|------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| layer 1                | 1  | pearlware                   |
| humus                  | 1  | 18th-century bottle glass   |
|                        | 2  | 19th-century bottle glass   |
| layer 2                | 1  | tin-glazed earthenware      |
| topsoil and slope wash | 1  | creamware                   |
|                        | 1  | Staffordshire slipware      |
|                        | 8  | pearlware                   |
|                        | 11 | whiteware                   |
|                        | 1  | 19th-century grey stoneware |
|                        | 5  | 18th-century bottle glass   |
|                        | 3  | 19th-century bottle glass   |
| layer 3                | 1  | Rhenish stoneware           |
| topsoil                | 2  | tin-glazed earthenware      |
|                        | 2  | Chinese porcelain           |
|                        | 15 | creamware                   |
|                        | 28 | pearlware                   |
|                        | 12 | whiteware                   |
|                        | 1  | grey stoneware              |
|                        | 6  | 18th-century bottle glass   |
|                        | 4  | 19th-century bottle glass   |
| layer 4                | 2  | tin-glazed earthenware      |
| bottom of topsoil      | 2  | Chinese porcelain           |
|                        | 1  | Whieldon ware               |
|                        | 15 | creamware                   |
|                        | 1  | Buckley earthenware         |
|                        | 29 | pearlware                   |
|                        | 10 | whiteware                   |
|                        | 1  | 19th-century grey stoneware |
|                        | 15 | 18th-century bottle glass   |
|                        | 6  | 19th-century bottle glass   |

In this sequence it appears the relative frequencies of 19th-century material increase the deeper one goes. This is indicative of the lower strata being buried by slope wash containing older artifacts. The upper sandy loam was probably redeposited from up the hill.

Test unit 9 was excavated in four natural strata. After removing 4-5 cm of humus, a medium brown loam stratum was exposed. This layer (3-6 cm thick) was in turn followed by a pebbly light brown loam stratum. This layer was removed to a depth of 6-10 cm exposing a yellowish brown clayey loam with very



sparse gravel. Four centimeters of this lower clay were removed exposing a yellowish brown clay loam. Two centimeters of the yellowish brown clay loam were removed and the stratum proved to be artifactually sterile.

#### Unit 9

layer 1  
humus

no temporally diagnostic material

layer 2  
topsoil

2 English brown stoneware  
7 creamware  
1 Staffordshire slipware  
19 pearlware  
9 whiteware  
8 18th-century bottle glass  
6 19th-century bottle glass

layer 3  
bottom of topsoil

1 molded white salt-glazed stoneware  
8 creamware  
18 pearlware  
18 whiteware  
10 18th-century bottle glass  
10 19th-century bottle glass

layer 4  
disturbed top of subsoil

9 creamware  
1 Staffordshire slipware  
20 pearlware  
13 whiteware  
1 19th-century grey stoneware  
3 18th-century bottle glass  
2 19th-century bottle glass

In this square we still have a natural soil horizon with admixture of materials from the 18th and 19th centuries appearing from top to bottom. Again, the high frequency of 19th-century material in the lowermost stratum indicates possible burial from slope wash.

Test unit 10 was excavated in nine separate provenience units. Initially, 4-7 cm of dark brown humus were removed to expose a horizon of gravelly, strong brown loam. This horizon (7 cm thick) in turn gave way to a more clayey strong brown loam. The strong brown clayey loam was removed in a thickness of 6 cm to expose a myriad of soil disturbances. All six of these soil disturbances were quite irregular. None appear to have cultural origins though historic material was included in their fills. Finally, after removal of all of these soil disturbances, sterile subsoil was reached.

#### Unit 10

layer 1  
humus

no temporally diagnostic material

layer 2  
slope wash

5 creamware  
5 pearlware  
13 whiteware  
6 yellowware  
2 18th-century bottle glass  
1 19th-century bottle glass

layer 3  
topsoil

1 18th-century Chinese porcelain  
1 Buckley earthenware  
7 creamware  
22 pearlware  
10 whiteware  
1 19th-century grey stoneware  
2 yellowware  
7 18th-century bottle glass  
6 19th-century bottle glass

feature 1  
erosional gully

1 white salt-glazed stoneware  
1 tin-glazed earthenware  
1 18th-century Chinese porcelain

feature 2  
erosional gully

no temporally diagnostic material

feature 3  
erosional gully

no artifacts recovered

feature 4  
erosional gully

1 pearlware

feature 5  
erosional gully

no artifacts recovered

feature 6  
erosional gully

no artifacts recovered

Erosion on this slope could have created the small gullies which in turn were filled with cultural material from a topsoil developing above. This topsoil was then covered with a gravelly deposit of slope wash. A relatively clean humus then developed above the slope wash.

#### Summary - Area II

The 18th-century material recovered from the test pits in Area II appears to be concentrated between E220 and E270. This correlates reasonably well with the greatest concentration of 18th-century materials demonstrated in the distributional analysis (see above). Area II appears to represent a primary area of domestic refuse deposition from the main house at Oxon Hill. Some of this material has been reworked or buried by the actions of erosion and slope wash. The material is most concentrated between E220 and E270 which is immediately opposite the main house foundations. It would appear that this slope represented a convenient location to dispose of domestic debris generated by occupation.

